SUNDAY LIFESTYLE
A surprise party for the 'primus inter mares' who turns 80

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Despite avian flu threat, bird-watching facility to be set up for tourists

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Flying out of the Air Force: Pilots joining commercial airlines in droves

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, PEARLS OF VIEWS

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UN agency turns to Pinoy music to fight poverty

By Vish Cunanan

THE INSPIRATION CAME FROM A video clip hooked 4B Street the United Nations

If the 1993 Millennium Development Goals (MDG)—aimed to cut human misery in half by 2015—needs recruiting stars like Shawn Counts, Lea Salonga and Gary Valenciano, or

local: headlines@inquirer.com.ph

GMA, critical senators share food, wine, laughter

By John Lohag Jaroillon

TAKING HIS MEALS last President Macapagal-A[illegible] and two o[illegible] have turned to Kissing the Enemy encouraged to enjoy an evening of food wine, [illegible]

Cory regrets backing GMA

Endangered tamaraws breed in the wilds again

By Blondie S. Rivera

IT'S BACK TO THE WILDS FOR THE [illegible]

Experts are normally wondering "destroying" the great pools of tamaraws in Occidental Mindoro, but not anymore. Research showed that the species, a descendant of the rare, dark and ruthless found only in the Philippines, might be better off left in the mountains.

The tamaraw (bubalus tamaraw) was nearly wiped out by an epidemic in the 1930s, and then further depleted by the hunt for trade and recreation. It was listed by the World Conservation Union as one of the most threatened mammals on earth. The government has protected the endangered species for the past three decades and established a gene pool.

The tamaraw is endemic to Mindoro and have bear breeding well in the wild, the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau reported.

In contrast, out of the original 10 tamaraws captured for the gene pool, only two have survived—Mats and her calf Kalibasa.

"This is the first time we're going to evaluate if we still need the gene pool. If they're breeding in the wild, then we may not need to capture them for preservation," PAWB director Manolo Lim told the Inquirer.

At least 269 tamaraws, many of them juvenile, were sighted on Mt. Iglit alone. "They have also made their homes on Mt. Buco, Mt. Halcon and Mt. Calavite.

While the population is still considerably small and confined to a spot in the mountains off the country's list of endangered species, the 269 sightings are an improvement over the 130 head count in the past decades.

If the gene pool is closed, Lim said

DRY SPELL IN LAGUNA. It's been called Shangri-La, the mountain resort in the Pinamalayan Province named Bagsak which sits in a bowl-shaped valley. It's well-known for its thick forest cover of pine trees, 40 known underground caves—each one legendary for its crystal clear streams—natural pools and silvery or golden cascades and tadpoles for swimmers.

'I thought she would do better than Erap'

By Fe Zamora

FORMER PRESIDENT CORazon Aquino and another Rep. Eddie Villanueva yesterday publicly admitted regretting having helped Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo become president of the Philippines.

"I [illegible] guilty to the fact that I thought GMA would be a better alternative to this mess," Aquino told supporters, referring to her decision to back Mrs. Arroyo's rise to power in 2001, replacing then President Joseph Estrada.

Aquino had joined former senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Cardinal Sin in leading "People Power" protests against Estrada after Senate supporters of the former movie actor quashed supposedly crucial evidence against him during his impeachment trial in the Senate.

"When I realized this and I made my decision, that was very, very easy because we thought that maybe [illegible] could do better than Erap," said Aquino, who is now leading a campaign to make Mrs. Arroyo step down.

Apparently referring to Vice President Noli de Castro, Aquino said the current "alternative is not [illegible] attractive."

Aquino spoke at a forum and workshop on possible alternatives to Mrs. Arroyo conducted by the Black and White Movement, a group seeking the President's resignation.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said political accusations by former Bp Arroyo and her critics would be difficult for us long as they continued

[illegible]

HAPPY CHILDHOOD (left) of Cielo, 11, and her little sister Gloria, 10, in Negros Occ. (NO). (Above) The sisters get together last year for cupcake-laying rites to expand the airport in Clark, Pampanga, named after their dad.

Big sister Cielo fears for Gloria's life, would rather see her ousted than dead

By Fe Zamora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's big sister, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, would rather see her resigned or impeached than caught in a violent [illegible]

"If she has to go to save her life, her family and the people, I would rather that she do that than cause deaths," Cielo, a former vice governor of Pampanga and the oldest child of the late President Diosdado Macapagal, said in a recent interview.

In fact, Cielo said, she was among those praying that the beleaguered President would make the ultimate sacrifice and step down on July 8, when 10 key government officials quit their posts and urged the Chief to do the same.

On the issue dog-citing lingering doubts about the results of the 2004 presidential election, Senate President Franklin Drilon said he had Presidential Counsel Aquino, as well as the Makati Business Club, the latest calls for the President's resignation.

"I wanted her to resign because I found that her life is the all-time high. I was scared for her," Cielo said, recalling their earlier day in the Arroyo presidency.

But Cielo, who spoke with the latter two separate interviews, chose to keep mum on allegations that the President cheated in the 2004 polls.

"That's hard to tell," she said. "That I cannot answer."

Cielo said she had urged Arroyo to be interested in order to eliminate [illegible] misconception that she was "ruthless" to the core resulting her sister.

"We are different," she said. "Some people tell us, 'Parang pareng lang' politics again. Maybe [illegible] your children or grandchildren, but you, forget it." And people told that to go straight to our face. Maybe they mean well, but it hurts."

Speaking on rare one-on-interview on June 27, the President apologized for calling accusations of fraud during the 2004 election [illegible] period, as not that she described as a "hyperbolical gesture."

But she denied any wrongdoing and said she merely wanted to protect her votes.

Cielo said she was saddened to watch her sister's televised act of contrition.

"I was trying to put myself in her shoes. What are she feeling? I really felt very sad," Cielo said.

Pablo de la Rosa Macapagal elected to three terms in 1949, leaving two young children—the boy 9 from old Cielo and the year-old sister Cielo—behind.

In 1946, their father Diosdado Macapagal married Dr. Evangelista Macaraeg.

Cielo was 62 years old when Diosdado died on April 1, 1997. Diosdado Jr. (Boboy) was born in 1953.

The family lived in San Jose when part of Nueva province, [illegible] as the Macapagal home on [illegible] Ilocos and later on the Macaraeg ancestral home on nearby Lubao Street.

Cielo said Gloria was playful but studious, and "loved politics. Pat Ronzo, Robert Strilland, Neil Sedaka."

She said Gloria was the favorite of her grandmother Doreen Macaraeg.

It was usual for the Macapagals to spend summer vacations in Ilocos [illegible], where the Macaraeg have a house.

One summer, the then 15-year-old Cielo and 9-year-old Gloria [illegible] basketball game in Ilocos and met one of the top players, Dimasalang was Agustin Rimo's [illegible].

Four years later, the basketball star would ask Miss President

[illegible]

A3
WEATHER FORECAST
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2005
Second FRONTPAGE

Gordon scores FVR, JDV for pushing own agenda

By Julie Laking Javellana

ADMINISTRATION SEN. RICHARD GORDON yesterday lashed out at former President Fidel V. Ramos and House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. for putting pressure on President Macapagal-Arroyo to cut short her term and conditioning the people into agreeing to a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

He said the two were motivated by their personal agenda.

"This is the detailed plan of FVR and JDV for the Speaker to become Prime Minister," said Gordon, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments.

He said that while he believed Ramos had good intentions for pushing Cha-cha charge, the former President could also conceivably become a member of the new parliament.

"I don't think the President wants to cut her term. Who in her right mind would want to cut her three years? It's JDV and FVR who are pressuring her to quit that way," Gordon said in a phone interview.

He said Mr. Ramos would want to replace Mr. Alfonso as secretary and President.

Earlier this week, Ramos released a statement proposing that the President make the "supreme sacrifice" to solve the political crisis by agreeing to cut short her six-year term.

He said Dr. Valencia have proposed a draft to a parliamentary system to take effect in 2007 or a graceful way out for Ms. Arroyo who has been accused of manipulating the 2004 vote.

Gordon said another proposal to cancel the term of all officials to be affected by the change in political system was meant to remove opposition to the plan.

"This is Marcos all over again. That is a Marcosian tactic to get everybody to agree," he said.

Gordon, who had earlier threatened to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo because of the smuggling of second-hand cars into the Subic freeport, advised the President to resist the pressure from her two allies.

"If I were GMA, I would reject it and stay the course," he said.

He said ruling short the term of the President would create a bad precedent.

He said he could live with a continued Arroyo presidency provided she instituted major reforms which would include a "presidency full of sincerity and candor."

The President, he said, should launch an honest to goodness fight against corruption and smuggling and keep the peace and order, set up the economy and put more money into investments, tourism and trade promotion, and stop the imposition of the expanded value-added tax on power and cooking gas which are sensitive sunrise issues.

Gordon said he was in favor of making certain amendments to the Constitution and even for a constituent assembly, to be composed of the senators and congressmen, to do it.

But what he said other senators objected to was the way Dr. Valencia and Ramos were ramming the need for a shift to the parliamentary system down people's throats, he said.

Despite political storm, economy grew by 5%, says GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo announced yesterday the economy grew by 5 percent even in the midst of the most severest political crisis to hit her administration, and said she believed the country was finally on the verge of an economic takeoff.

"GDP (gross domestic product) from July to September is reported to be growth at 5 percent level even the same period last year, unrecorded by the political issues," the President said in a statement, following a week of incessant rallies and protests to oust the president for selling for her removal from office.

The President issued the statement shortly before she met with the National Security Council and the Cabinet economic cluster in Malacañang yesterday morning.

"Our economy continues to look up because this government is clearly and consistently focused on it," she said. "We have some seven months to the threshold of an economic takeoff, and each key sector of society must have more weight on building the momentum for growth."

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said that since the third quarter onboard much of the recent political crisis, "is the present GDP growth hidden by the effect of a firewall between a robust economy and dysfunctional politics."

Salceda noted that the third quarter GDP figure, which was the same as that for the third quarter last year, becomes more significant considering that it was an improvement over the 4.7 percent and 4.4 percent growth registered in the first and second quarters, respectively, this year.

The government reported a 5.1 percent GDP growth this year, down from its previous forecast of 5.3 percent because of the rise in oil prices. Economic managers however forgain factors said earlier that GDP growth could close down if oil prices remained at $60 a more a barrel.

GDP rose 6.1 percent in 2004, the highest since the 6.2 percent in 1988 and lower than the 2003 expansion of 4.7 percent.

Ms Arroyo said the Supreme Court go ahead for the implementation of the expanded value added tax (VAT) has boosted investor confidence.

The expanded VAT is the centerpiece of the government's campaign to control the budget deficit and forestall a looming fiscal crisis, but even Arroyo's allies worry that it could worsen inflation at a time when disenfranchise with her administration remains strong. GM C. Lobregat Jr., with wire reports

I was not hiding, ex-agri exec insists

By Christine A. Zayltun

JOSELITO "JOC-JOC" BOLANTE, the former agriculture undersecretary being sought by the Senate, yesterday denied he was hiding from the senators investigating the so-called fertilizer fund scandal.

"I'm not hiding. Whenever I am in Manila, I am just working as usual. I am just very busy organizing this very important and prestigious event of Isuzu International. I will not allow this event to be disrupted and let them [senators] do what they want," Bolante said.

Bolante, who is said to have snubbed the opening on Oct. 6 of the Senate investigation into the alleged misuse of P728 million in funds of the Glutrimeng Management, for agriculture programs, on Friday eluded Senate aides who were sent to serve him a subpoena at the Manila Philippine Plaza Hotel.

His lawyer, Antonio Cabanos, received the subpoena which directed Bolante to appear the Sen. Jinggoy Estrada committee's second hearing on Oct. 18.

"If I was hiding I would not have even allowed the Senate aides who were sent to serve him a subpoena at the Manila Philippine Plaza Hotel.

He said he did not snub the Oct. 6 hearing but had not actually been invited.

"You could check page 4 of the official Senate transcription regarding that first hearing. It did not mention that I should be summoned to the first hearing," he said. With Norman Bordadora

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SUN CELLULAR

WHAT'S INSIDE

Red Bull takes on San Miguel; Air21-SLR up

RED BULL SEEKS TO PIN A FOURTH STRAIGHT loss on slumping San Miguel today even as NLEX and the Letran Knights try to get back on track in the Sun-Big Coffee PBA-Stanex Conference elimination at the Araneta Coliseum.

After getting most of the breaks involved in their recent conquest of the Express, coach Yeng Guiao wants more of the same when his Bulls ride it out with the Beer team in the 6:30 p.m. contest.

"We don't want to rely so much on our injury," said Guiao. "It's not that we don't want him to score 40 points or more but it would be better if we get more load contribution."

Meanwhile, Purefoods Chunkee notched its third straight victory by beating Barangay Ginebra, 84-79 in an out-of-town match in Cagayan de Oro City last night.

Jondan Reinhouse and Dorian Peña are still nursing injuries and are again listed as doubtful, paving a huge hole in the offense of Jong Uichico, whose fourman unit is an unbeatable 3-0 situation.

Import Eduardo Hall has not been of great help for the fourman unit however and this could be his last game with Red Rhythm.

Quentwon Cesar averaged 38 points during the first three games when the Bandits lost two.

Against the Express, the flamboyant Cesar finished with 23 points but Red Bull got double-digit scoring from Gerdy Tugade and Cyrus Baguio.

Rookie Larry Fonacier had a breakout game while Warren Ybanez, Aniceto Silverio and Ilwa Villanueva all scored worthy contributions.

"The best revenge would be Q (Cesar) going into a scoring spree with the locals also contributing heavily," said Guiao, whose Bandits are tied with the Realtors (2-2) in the middle of the pack.

Coming off an 87-80 defeat against the unbeaten Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, the Realtors are hoping Chet Lemon's White could bail them out this time opposite the Express at 6:40 p.m.

White, who replaced Lidet Whitehead, had an impressive debut but couldn't finish the job for the Realtors.

Dennis Espino sees action for the first time, coming back from a freak accident in the weight's room to help ease the burden in the point of Freddie Abalos-Aquino.

Coach Alfrancis Chua said Espino's presence will not only help against but also give Clarence Tolentino, Paulo Mendoza and rookies Great Cacli and Alex Cabagnot more good looks at the basket.

The Express are coming off a double-overtime loss against the Manila Accelerators last night.

By Jane Sinsuvirte

Bondad pulls away by 5 in HK tourney

HONG KONG—PRINCESS NORAH BONDAD threw off her last eight holes to salvage an even-par 72 yesterday and put an overnight one-stroke lead to the finishing into the final round of the 2005 Jockey Club Ladies Open golf tournament.

Bondad gunned down birdies on Nos. 11, 15 and 17 to recover three strokes dropped earlier, including a double bogey 7 on No. 10, to total 146 after 36 holes at the north course of the Fanling Jockey Club Public Golf Club and pass local bet Jenny Mak.

Mak signed for her version of a 73 and became Manila's newest pursuer after Thai ace Nontarat Phothiarchanunthee a 78 for 151.

Nontat Chotichai, the other Thai bet who beat Bondad in the recent Hong Kong Ladies Amateur Open in Beijing, barely missed with a 75 for a 152, although the speechmate of Thailand's star mainlife Southeast Asian Games in Manila is expected to resume a charge today.

While her rivals failed under windy cloudy conditions, Bondad played evenly all day, touching just 25 putts.

The only two up moves on the 18th, the hole she ended on the opening round, when Bondad had her first shot to the lawn.

"We thought Nontarat would give it away after a double bogey but she kept her composure and in mid-round, 2 on the last 6 holes," said Chris Gutierrez, who acts as the coach of the squad with MAPU-Jake Ayala as team captain.

"She actually likes playing this course and under these conditions. Because it's just like when she's used to play in Australia... links courses with tight fairways, no trees, strong winds and fast greens. It's really a test of one's patience and composure," added Gutierrez.

Crystal Sapsod shot a second straight 84 for a 168 while Mia Picazo, the third and last Filipina in the field, was another shot back at 169 after an 86.

Sapsod and Picazo, whose stint here with Bondad is sponsored by golf patron Enrique Razon Jr. through the National Golf Association of the Philippines, were among the top 17 players after 36 holes who advanced to the final round of this event serving as the SE Indies' final tuneup for the SEA Games slated Nov. 28-30 at the Manila Golf Club.

Bondad, the former SE Asian Open champion, is eyeing no less than revenge over the fancied Thais, who beat her in a final round shootout in Beijing two weeks ago.

Tied with Chotichai and Pauker in the final round, Bondad carded a birdie-bogey-birdie-bogey finish while Chotichai was the one with a 75. Pauker made it a 1-1 finish for Thailand with a 73.

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Erap's knees 90% recovered, says doc

By Norman Bordadora

ALMOST ONE YEAR AFTER HIS successful knee replacement surgery in Hong Kong, deposed President Joseph Estrada was described by his US doctor as physically fit and 85 to 90 percent on the way to full recovery.

Dr. Christopher Moss, Estrada's surgeon, said the former President was doing well after faithfully sticking to his early morning physical therapy and exercise regimen meant to fully rehabilitate his surgically repaired knees.

Estrada received a pair of knee implants during his operation in Hong Kong in December last year.

"Five months after the surgery, his recovery was 70 to 75 percent considering his age and how bad his previous condition was. Now, it's still no 90 percent.

"He is now well on his way to full recovery," Moss said in the weekly Explikan sa Radyo news forum.

Moss added that it usually took 18 months to gain full strength to completely replaced knees.

"He's doing very well. He has kept up his physical therapy and has been faithfully doing his exercises in the morning, every 8 to 8:30 in the morning," Moss said.

The US surgeon flew into the country on Oct. 19 for a routine checkup of Estrada's knees.

Moss spent the whole of Friday at Estrada's estate in Tanay, Rizal, where the former President is under house arrest.

The doctor supervised the deposed leader's continuing therapy aimed at restoring the normal functions of his knees.

He returned to the United States yesterday afternoon after briefing the media on Estrada's physical condition.

Moss said Estrada's transfer from the Tanay estate to his retreat in Tondo Greenhills, San Juan, was not necessary "from a medically medical point of view."

"I've talked to the lawyers and I understand that his (request) to be transferred to his residence [is on the legal purpose of being able to attend to his case more effectively," Moss said.

Moss told reporters that Estrada had been able to make the most out of his situation with what the Sandiganbayan had already given him, and that is to have the pain in his knees and to regain full strength in his knee extremities.

"But as a matter of convenience to him and to all concerned, it would be best if he (Estrada) could avail of the facilities available in a modern medical facility [than what we have in Tanay]," Moss said.

A motion is now pending before the Sandiganbayan regarding Estrada's request to be placed under house arrest at his Greenhills residence.

FOUND ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES. The tamaraw is now breeding well in the wild, and its numbers are steadily increasing. For the first time in 30 years, the DENR says the country may no longer need a gene pool, which is set up for the preservation of the endangered species.

Endangered . . .

Front page A1

Kalibasin will not be released to the wild, according to Lim.

No to cloning

The increased population has also reinforced the DENR's decision not to subject the tamaraw to cloning as proposed by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), the first such proposal aimed at preserving the country's endangered wildlife.

The PCC had wanted to clone the tamaraws in the gene pool but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources rejected the proposal, saying that cloning would reduce the genetic diversity of the species.

"It's not ethical because we still have enough tamaraws in the wild. If there were, say, only two or three of the species left, then cloning would be viable," Lim said.

The tamaraw, noted for their fierceness and determination to attack their enemies even when they are wounded, nearly failed to survive one enemy in the 1900s—the rinderpest, a highly fatal viral disease affecting domestic cattle, buffalo and yaks.

Gene pool

From an estimated population of 10,000 in the wild, the tamaraw had been reduced to only about 150 in the 1970s, prompting the government to establish a gene pool.

Ten sterilized tamaraws were released to the wild, placed in an enclosed area in Pikal, Occidental Mindoro, and allowed to breed.

After almost 20 years, however, the gene pool produced only one offspring, five-year-old Kalibasin, short for Kalikasang Bagong Silad. Today, only Kalibasin and its mother, Silad, are left in the gene pool.

"Not only did they not mate, most of the tamaraws in the gene pool died of natural causes... The problem probably is that they were reared much like cattlemen," Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro, who oversees the government's wildlife preservation program, said in an earlier interview.

The gene pool had been under the supervision of the PCC and was transferred to the DENR only four years ago.

Tamaraw month

Lim said the PAWB would start consultations this month with the local government, communities and other stakeholders on the necessity of keeping a tamaraw gene pool. October was declared Tamaraw Month in 2002.

Alongside the festivities for Tamaraw Month in Mindoro, Lim said she expects to get the senatorship of the Mindorenos, who are proud of their unique species.

"The people in Mindoro are very aware of the conservation efforts for the tamaraw, and they are actively helping the government," Lim said, adding that the residents themselves have tried to keep hunters away.

Turning down offers

She said the administration had also refused to create a reservation area outside the island even in exchange for foreign funding for the country's wildlife conservation programs.

A zoo in the United Kingdom had expressed interest in importing the tamaraw for education and conservation purposes, with the condition that the Philippines would conserve the animals anytime after they had bred.

This was also turned down by the Mindorenos.

"They're very possessive of the tamaraws; they also [want] to protect them," Lim said, adding that the communities ability to keep the tamaraws safe in Mindoro's mountains could be the key to their survival for the next hundred years—with or without the gene pool.

US: MILF must be ally vs terror

By Volt Contreras

ONCE IT SIGNS a PEACE agreement with the Philippine government, the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front is "expected" to be an ally in the global war on terror, particularly against the regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah and its Moro Muslim-based affiliate, the Abu Sayyaf group.

This is the view from Washington as conveyed yesterday by Henry Crumpton, the US State Department's counterterrorism czar. Crumpton is in Manila on the last leg of a Southeast Asian tour to discuss regional efforts against terrorism. He met with President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday.

Crumpton said forging peace with the MILF would be the Philippine government's "most effective way" of finishing off terrorists cells in Mindanao and preventing the MILF from providing safe haven to JI members operating in Southeast Asia.

"We believe that when this accord is signed it will put enormous pressure on the JI and the ASG," Crumpton said at a press conference. "We all need to see these organizations come to a successful conclusion, to bring the MILF into the fold, because we really will this bring them into the broader community here in the Philippines but it also, as you know, requires the MILF to participate and to help the Philippine government to counter terrorism efforts."

The MILF has been waging a separatist war for the last three decades, the latter the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army. It is not on Washington's list of terrorist organizations.

Government and MILF officials have been holding peace talks in Malaysia, and they announced recently that they were close to a final peace accord.

Crumpton said he was both encouraged and impressed by this and other recent Philippine gains in counterterrorism, including the "neutralization" of 193 alleged terrorists and the discovery of 600 kg of explosives that authorities claimed were to have been used to escalate bombing attacks against Americans and their allies.

Crumpton said the US was particularly concerned about the possible overlap between al-Qaeda terrorist networks and affiliates like the JI. Have made clear intentions "absolutely clear" in their messages. He also cited the discovery of an Arabic laboratory in Afghanistan.

"I have concerns not only about the Philippines, but about all countries' preparations for chemical, biological attacks," he said. "It's extraordinarily difficult to detect in many respects, and our defenses need to be improved."

Crumpton has visited Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, and is headed back to Washington from Manila. With reports from AFP and AFP

Reds deny Ka Satur funding terror plots

LUCENA CITY — COMMUNIST spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal has denied the military's allegation that Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo has been providing funds to New People's Army rebels.

Rosal also condemned officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for purportedly spreading lies to malign the CPP, adding up baseless persons for arrest, causing disorder to scare people from joining rallies, and creating a scenario to justify the imposition of military rule.

On Thursday, Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the Northern Luzon Command, claimed Army soldiers had seized a cache of C-3 explosives and documents from an NPA camp.

Among the documents reportedly was a letter with the logo of the CPP/NPA stating that a certain "Ka Satur" had given P5 million for the purchase of explosives to be used to stage bombings in Metro Manila.

Tolentino had labeled the "Ka Satur" mentioned in the documents was Ocampo.

But Ocampo vehemently denied the military's insinuations and challenged Tolentino to file formal charges against him in court.

Rosal maintained that he had never been in touch of any communication within the revolutionary movement that used the CPP logo.

"For General Tolentino's information, the CPP logo is never used in internal communications. It appears only in official publications of the Central Committee," Rosal said in a statement. Inquirer Northern Luzon Bureau

GMA offering reconciliation, but not her head

By GVC Catacutan Jr.

RECONCILIATION, YES, BUT NOT IF YOU want her head.

First Secretary Ignacio Bunye stressed this point yesterday in the wake of calls by two major religious groups for an end to political bickering between President Macapagal-Arroyo and her opponents.

"The President has always stated that her administration is ready for a principled reconciliation but those who attack her have a different agenda," Bunye said, according to the transcript of a radio interview released by Malacañang.

"Those who rallied yesterday (Friday) and the past week have only one goal and that is to oust the President who won a mandate to serve the country. If they will continue with this stance, it will be difficult to have a principled reconciliation," Bunye said.

Votes of INC and El Shaddai

Iglesia ni Cristo Executive Minister Eraño G. Manalo and El Shaddai Servant Leader Bro. Mike Velarde issued a joint statement Friday calling on the administration and its critics to stop hostilities for the sake of the people.

Malacañang, in a pronouncement by Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo, said that, on top of a superior political machinery and vote economic clout, INC and El Shaddai votes had played a decisive role in the President's victory in the 2004 elections.

(See story on this page)

Traitor to promises

"I regretted having helped her but that's how it is, we learn lessons from history," Villanueva told the Senate. "The worst in a way that the successor of Estrada has turned out to be a traitor to her promises to fight corruption and injustices."

Among the organizers of the daylong forum were former Education Secretary Fe Hilario "Butch" Abad, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, former Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Horacio "Ding" Jobo and former anti-Poverty Commission chair Imelda Nicolas.

The forum, among the so-called "Hour 25" group composed of 13 senior administration officials who quit their posts in July and urged Ms Arroyo to follow their example.

Meeting at Burgundy

The workshop was held in the iconic Imperial Hall (Hotel) owned once by Imelda, in Novelas 2000, civil society leaders convened the 2nd Kongreso ng Mamayang Pilipino (Kompil) to map out plans to oust Estrada and replace him with Ms Arroyo.

The first Kompil in 1986 unified the factions opposition to dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was later ousted in a People Power revolution in February 1986.

Villanueva said Ms Arroyo was invited him to a meeting at her family's condominium in the Burgundy building on Gen. Kalentong Avenue at the height of the impeachment case against Estrada on corruption and misappropriation charges.

Also at the meeting were Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and businessman Antonio Cabangbang, he said.

Villanueva said he brought along his son, now party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva.

But her poll victory has been overshadowed by allegations of vote fraud, sparking protests against her continued rule.

JDV welcomes Church call

Bunye said Ms Arroyo gave importance to the call of Manalo and Velarde for an end to political bickering and for more focus on solving the country's economic ills.

"This is only proper because we really have a lot of work to be done," Bunye said.

He called on the opposition to tone down on media against the administration and its officials.

Speaker Jose de Venecia also welcomed the appeal for political advisory aired by Velarde and Manalo.

De Venecia said in a statement that he had long been suggesting the creation of a multi-sectoral Consultative Council to help in the process of reconciliation to end the prolonged political instability and put the country on the path to sustained economic growth.

Essence of leadership

"True reconciliation calls for political leaders to climb box of personal interests and more of 'how to end' the crisis through grave personal sacrifices," De Venecia said. "This is the essence of leadership."

De Venecia called on members of the House of Representatives to work out ways to achieve reconciliation, and proposed a period of healing after the impeachment imbroglio.

Cory regrets backing GMA

From page A1

to demand her resignation. (See story on this page)

Traitor to promises

"I regretted having helped her but that's how it is, we learn lessons from history," Villanueva told the Senate. "The worst in a way that the successor of Estrada has turned out to be a traitor to her promises to fight corruption and injustices."

Among the organizers of the daylong forum were former Education Secretary Fe Hilario "Butch" Abad, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, former Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Horacio "Ding" Jobo and former anti-Poverty Commission chair Imelda Nicolas.

The forum, among the so-called "Hour 25" group composed of 13 senior administration officials who quit their posts in July and urged Ms Arroyo to follow their example.

Meeting at Burgundy

The workshop was held in the iconic Imperial Hall (Hotel) owned once by Imelda, in Novelas 2000, civil society leaders convened the 2nd Kongreso ng Mamayang Pilipino (Kompil) to map out plans to oust Estrada and replace him with Ms Arroyo.

The first Kompil in 1986 unified the factions opposition to dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was later ousted in a People Power revolution in February 1986.

Villanueva said Ms Arroyo was invited him to a meeting at her family's condominium in the Burgundy building on Gen. Kalentong Avenue at the height of the impeachment case against Estrada on corruption and misappropriation charges.

Also at the meeting were Ms Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and businessman Antonio Cabangbang, he said.

Villanueva said he brought along his son, now party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva.

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Cory regrets backing GMA

"She requested me to talk to some key military leaders, to talk to them to withdraw support from Estrada and help mobilize people. She assured me that she will seriously fight corruption, injustices and really fight the evils of abject poverty," Villanueva said.

"I was made to believe that she was sincere, she probably was," he added.

Looking back, Villanueva felt that supporting Ms Arroyo then was probably the "correct decision."

Leader for herself

"I cannot fault the Filipino people who replaced Estrada with GMA. I can only fault GMA herself for allowing herself to be tempted by power and probably money that suddenly she has changed from being leader of the Filipino people and now a leader for herself," Villanueva added.

Villanueva laughed off proposals by a plebiscite to determine whether a majority of the people wanted Ms Arroyo to step on until the end of her 3rd term in 2010, or can her tenure to three years, until 2007.

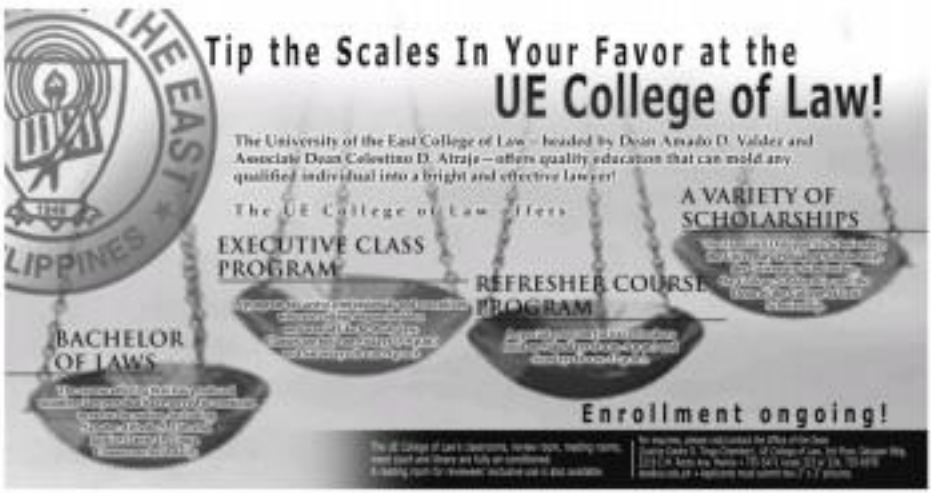
An insanity

"Any kind of plebiscite or referendum is be handled by the same Comelec (Commission on Elections) that allowed the rigging of the last election is ridiculous if not (an) insanity, I'm sorry to say that," Villanueva said.

'Sign of stupidity'

"With due respect to former President Ramos and to my good friend Speaker Jose de Venecia, I am sorry I cannot in conscience accept a constitutional change through the same congressmen and lawmakers who shamelessly killed the impeachment complaint, thereby denying the Filipino people to know the truth," the evangelist said, referring to the house of representatives' killing of the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

"To me again that is another sign of stupidity," Villanueva said.



Despite flu threat, bird-watching facility for tourists to rise

DESPITE THE ALERT FOR A POSSIBLE DEATH brush of avian flu, the Philippine Tourism Authority will construct a bird-watching activity center in Pampanga in late November.

PTA general manager Rafael Alunan had told the locators that the new center would feature bird species found in the Candaba swamp. But the birds would be thoroughly screened for the dreaded bird flu virus and would be safe for tourists to view.

The center is scheduled to open in December at PTA's Hilaga Tourism Village, the former Commercial Expo Park, in San Fernando City. Hilaga has an aviary featuring ordinary and rare ornamental charming birds such as the white-feathered ones, believed to be an albino. This will be complemented by facilities where tourists can watch local and migratory birds flying to and from the swamp.

"With the bird-watching center, tourists can opt not to go to the Candaba swamp and spend more time in Hilaga's other attractions that would be set up in time for the holidays," Barbers said.

Of course, not going to the swamp would lessen the chances of exposure to the bird flu virus, he added. The Candaba swamp is one of the 20 bird flu "hotspots" in the country that are being monitored by health authorities because many migratory birds stop over or settle there.

The wetland, shared by Pampanga and Bulacan provinces, covers 32,000 hectares. It is watered by the Pampanga River and its tributaries. According to the conservation group Ruffort Foundation, the Philippines is along the East Asian Flyway, the route of globetrotting birds in the winter months of October up to April. Jerome Aning

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, October 30, 2005
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Love the poor in the name of the Covenant.

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the people of Israel this: You shall not wrong or oppress a stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

"You shall not harm the widow or the orphan. If you do harm them and they cry out to me, I will hear them and my anger will burn and I will kill you with the sword, and your own wives will be widows and your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people who are poor, do not act like a money lender and do not charge him interest.

"If ever you take a person's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him by sunset, for it is all the covering he has for his body. In what else will he sleep? And when he cries to me I will hear him, for I am full of pity."

2nd Reading: 1st Thessalonians 1:5-10

Faith is contagious.

Brothers and sisters, you know how we dealt with you for your sake.

So it was, you became followers of us and of the Lord when, on receiving the word, you experienced the joy of the Holy Spirit in the midst of great opposition. And you became a model for the faithful of Macedonia and Achaia, since from you the word of the Lord spread to Macedonia and Achaia, and still further. The faith you have in God has become news in so many places that we need say no more about it. Others tell of how you received us on our initial visit, how you turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God, and you wait for his Son from heaven whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who frees us from impending trial.

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Love all Love.

When the Pharisees heard how Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to test him with this question, "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and the most important of the commandments. But also this there is another one very similar to it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole Law and the Prophets are founded on these two commandments."

Commentary:

The next group short and the questions more direct. Once again they are going at Jesus. At last year about the chapel organizers of the Sadducees who did not believe in resurrection or judgment. Now the Pharisees will have another go at Jesus and one again tries with the age-old, dreaded question: "Which is the most important commandment in the Law?" Jesus answers with the Shema which is hardly proper to the holiness of God and the fundamental call to the covenant and basis of all the law to love God with all your mind, heart, soul, and vs. source. But Jesus adds to the second like best (love of your hand) to love your neighbor with the same passion and wholeheartedness. Every thing in the law, the prophets, the history of Archdiocese in the church, is meant to lead to putting these words into practice and obeying the intent of God that all who are made in his image, live in his image as truthfully as we can. And there is no getting around it or helping to rationalizing shallow... who are like the Sadducees playing games with theology, the Pharisees and them using the law to test, trick and make others stumble—or try to with Jesus, intent on the worship of God and the care of human beings!

(Daughters Publications Inc., 4 Ellipsoid St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101, Box 4, Diliman, CPO, Quezon City, tel. 921-4444, fax 920-1611, e-mail: ...@pbcom.org, Website: http://www.pbcom.org [Daughters Publications Inc.] All rights reserved. Copyright by Daughters Publications Inc. in the Philippines)

HEIRHYTIDE The photo of the infant Gloria with dad Diosdado Macapagal and one of her favorite dolls are on display at the Macapagal-Macaraeg ancestral home in Tarnate, Barroso, Bigao City, where the family spent their summer vacations. LOVELY BALTAZAR

Big sister Cielo fears for Gloria's life, would rather see her ousted than dead

From page A1

Diosdado Macapagal's pronounce to marry Cielo, then 19.

'Little sister'

"I have always looked at her as my little sister. I have never looked at her as (a woman of) proper and all," Cielo said of the President.

She said the impeachment case—which the House of Representatives had decided on—would have given the President the venue to debunk accusations she stole 3,000 dresses.

"Some of the questions on her credibility as will (have," Cielo said. "The guy has lost (her) control."

Cielo denied that her family had benefited from the former administration.

She said it was when President Joseph Estrada, who was their neighbor in San Juan, who named her a director of the Philippine National Bank and her husband Gene a director of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

But a month after Estrada was ousted in 2001, Gene was removed from PCIB.

Cielo herself would lose her PNB director ship, but would be assigned on the board of advisers by the stockholders.

Separate ways

According to Cielo, she and her sister "separated" but were their separate ways after her marriage.

When their father became President in 1961, Cielo was living in an apartment in Sampaloc, Manila, and was busy raising her children.

Macapagal ran for reelection but lost in 1965.

A day after that year, Cielo started working at the PBB. She resigned from the bank in 1988 when she ran for vice governor of Pampanga, with then President Corazon Aquino's blessings.

Cielo made an unsuccessful run for the governorship of Pampanga in 1992, and again won as vice governor in 1995.

But her political career would trigger problems with her kid sister's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

In 1998, Mr Arroyo was the running mate of presidential candidate Jose de Venecia, and was pitted against Edgardo Angara, Estrada's running mate.

Cielo said she was first a candidate for governor of Pampanga under the combined Estrada ticket, and was also chair of the finance committee for the (then) Partido ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Partido ng Masang Pilipino and Nationalist People's Coalition in the province.

In deference to her sister, Cielo said, she did not raise Angara's fund during his provincial tour. "I requested if I could just sit beside him, and he understood my situation," she said.

But word soon reached the Arroyos that Cielo did not support her sister's candidacy.

"There were so many intrigues that reached Mike," Cielo said.

She said their relationship took a turn for the worse during the Macapagal-Angara re union in Malacañang in March 2001.

"Mike snubbed me," Cielo said, adding that she has not set her inside Malacañang since then.

Sisters' meetings

But the sisters would meet outside the Palace whenever the President's schedule would allow.

On Sept. 4, for example, they had a mini-reunion of the baptismal party for the Macapagal's grandchild, Isabel Macaraeg.

"I told her to watch her back, and she said, 'Ate (Sis, I should)," Cielo said, laughed," Cielo said.

Dove lunch at an Indian restaurant in Makati in March. Cielo said her sister suggested that they spend a weekend at The Point in Lipa, Batangas, with friends de Leon, Ms Arroyo's first cousin and confidential secretary Marites, Ani's wife, and Tina, Sidney's wife.

Perhaps they would still swing it one of these days, Cielo said.

GMA, critical . . .

From page A1

food, cordial talk, even laughter.

By accounts, this area who happened when Mr Arroyo quipped he pulled a coup by dropping an unannounced in a dinner of the Senate's Wednesday Group, composed of Senators Jinkee Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto and Pia Cayetano.

The lawmakers learned that she had also met separately with the Monday Group of Senators Mar Roxas, Ramon "Bong" Revilla and Lito Lapid. Then Richard Gordon belonged to the group, but did not attend the meeting.

The chatty affirmative encounter at two weeks ago, at the height of the quarrel between Ms Arroyo and the senators over Senate investigations into "world of scandals" such as the "fertilizer fund" scam, the "hacking up" of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, and the issuance of Executive Order No. 464 limiting officials from appearing in congressional inquiries unless Ms Arroyo herself permission.

Airbrush

"Ah, were ambushed (by the President)!" was how a member of the Wednesday Group put it.

"She dropped in, no sacred at all, and I assisted Dito (on) part of the back-channeling efforts to ease the tension," Senate Majority leader Pangilinan told the Inquirer.

The unsuspecting group was joined by its "consultants and lawyers"—Cameroon for Sen. Rolando Andaya Jr. and Enrique, senior secretary Michael Defensor—who had apparently arranged Ms Arroyo's secret arrival at the dinner in a room restaurant in Mandaluyong City.

The President arrived ahead of Jinkee Arroyo, who is often described as maverick administrator, but relative because of his more low-profile pronouncements about the government.

Before he could react to her presence, the surprise guest had said: "O, Jokes, good evening."

"Good evening, ma'am" was the ready reply of the senator, who would later stand before the Supreme Court to defend his libelous columnist's detention at Camp Crame.

Teasing

Pangilinan, who had asked for Ms Arroyo's resignation, said all the football issues were referred to in jest.

"Balasahan ng (close teasing)," he said.

Another senator said Recto and Defensor made Ms Arroyo laugh with their jokes.

Yet another senator said Cayetano appeared embarrassed when, on her arrival, someone reminded the President that Cayetano had said less than nice things about her.

"She was flustered," the source said of Cayetano, a pugilistic senator and ranger in many impeachment moves by Rep. Allies Fe lel Gutierrez.

The colleagues did not quarrel each other.

Someone pointed out that Pangilinan and Recto had signed the Senate resolution challenging EO 464, and that Negidinan belonged to the Liberal Party of Erstwhile President Franklin Drilon, who had called for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

At for Villar, it was not forgotten that members of his Nacionalista Party, including his wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, had signed the impeachment complaint.

Turning serious

The President took this all in by smiling or laughing, according to the senators.

But she turned serious at one point. "Somebody joked about the female president, and she said (exactly that she didn't mean to get into it," Pangilinan said.

Because of his unfaltering support from the President, Drilon's post as Senate president is deemed in peril. Ms Arroyo reportedly wants either Villar or Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago to replace him, but both camps have admitted to me having the numbers as yet to topple Drilon.

There are 23 senators allied with the majority, and eight belong to the opposition. Thirteen senators are needed to elect a Senate president.

No confrontation

Pangilinan said "nothing confrontational" was said over menu items, oysters, lamb, chicken, lo mein noodles and red wine.

"It was not the time to talk about (sensitive issues). It was just a cordial dinner," he said, adding:

"At least it gave me an idea that (he's open to hear) the hard talks despite the chesters and the incendiary remarks. There's still an (her needs thawing, but it was an indication that the (dialogue) should be pursued."

Pangilinan said the dinner would soften the tensions in favor of a constructive dialogue, but "whether it would result in the Senate's "soft regulation or censorship" with regard to investigations, remains to be seen.

"There's nothing to it, just cordial. No sit was cleared," said another senator who asked not to be named.

In fact, he said, the following day Ms Arroyo attended the first qui before a business forum and attended to the drumming Senators.

Ms Arroyo publicly thanked Pangilinan for finally sponsoring the administration bill on Cha-cha. "But in the week, Villar, some Drilon asking to be included in the resolution questioning EO 464.

Doing the rounds

But the senators said they know Ms Arroyo was "doing the rounds" of administration allies.

Gordon said he was treated to have dinner with the President along with his group but he did not go.

He said he wanted to first see the President show her "sincerity and resolve" by sitting down with Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to iron out the kinks in the Pabaro Congress relationship.

UN agency turns to Pinoy music to fight poverty

From page A6

the name ALM de las Alas, could help put you in the mood to support these noble causes.

The UN office in Manila on Friday launched a compact disc featuring original Filipino compositions designed to popularize the MDGs—the UN's 8 point mission to significantly reduce global poverty by 2015.

The MDG album, titled "Tayo Tayo Rin sa 2015 (No One Else But Us in 2015)," contains tracks conveying each of the eight targets. Leading the voices to the project were 8 fan performers in the local music industry, who did the recording sessions for free.

The album has fancy U leading off as the ambassador for Goal No. 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, exhorting all to work "For a Better Life."

"Do not lose sweetie who I'm out on the streets/ while you're (a sat on your way to school?" asks child singer Julia Montes in "Bata Pa Kita (Tin Still a Child)."

She speaks for the target beneficiaries of Goal No. 2: Achieve universal primary education.

Gazinga, along with Bob Guiterrez, Pops Fernandez, Sarah Geronimo and Regine Velasquez, sings women empowerment in "Babae," which covers Goal No. 3: Promote gender equality.

Zamora does a landrest number in the persons of a mother whose small child died as a victim of poverty.

"O (only the world cares) / If only I (our was left)," she yearns in "Kung Sana (If Only)," which denounces Goal No. 6: Reduce child mortality.

Jay Ar Alas gives a sweet, hopeful approach to answering the pain and demands of a healthy pregnancy, serving as spokesperson for Goal No. 5: Improve maternal health.

In "Sa Himpapawid (In the Air)," Pinoy rock's "new generation" member has first "more beautiful, like a goddess."

Those who suffer

Playing the role of a person suffering from a dreaded disease, using star Kitchie Nadal speaks of the pain of isolation in "Kalinga (Care)," in which she promotes Goal No. 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Reggae stars Ayo and Papa from were against irresponsible mining, vocalizing environmentalist and staunch defenders in "Ilaw ng Buhay (Do and On)," which tackles Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

And Goal No. 8—develop a global partnership for development—makes for an ensemble tune featuring the above musicians and an extra plus: the APO Hiking Society, Martin Nievera, Jose Genevieve of the Side a Band, Aiza Seguerra, Freddie Aguilar, Jonas Gilles, Jerry Augusto, Jaya, Rivermaya and Orientation Band trio.

For free

Despite the all-star cast and the year-long effort to compose and compile the songs, the MDG Album is surprisingly not for sale.

SAY IT WITH A SONG Ban Aquino, chair of the National Youth Commission, speaks at the launch of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) album, "Tayo Tayo Rin sa 2015," which contains songs representing MDG's eight poverty reduction objectives. RAM CHUA

The first 3,000 copies are to be distributed for free, according to Ms. Susanna Scrapa, the executive coordinator for the project.

The songs will also be available soon for "free downloading" from the UN.Philippines website www.un.org.ph, she said.

An agreement has also been reached with the Kapisanan ng Mga Broadcaster ng Pilipinas to give the songs ample airtime on FM and AM stations. Scrapa told the Inquirer in Friday's launch at the show's investment in Malaut City.

Unfortunately, she said, the UN chief who should get the main credit was not present at the launch because of a meeting in Malaysia.

Lunday's brainchild

She was referring to her former boss, Rafael Lunday, the former UN Resident Coordinator in Manila, who came up with the idea of using music as a vehicle to spread MDG awareness among Filipinos.

The medium of choice was not surprising since, Scrapa smiled, Lunday was easily fascinated by the Filipinos' love of singing, which she took note of during her first month as the country's chief.

"She loved to sing in videoke and when she was here that we even taught her dance steps for (sandra Prinsu tunes) like Ortho-Gray or Bobdoll," Scrapa revealed. "This project was her brainchild."

Lunday, a Canadian national, left Manila for a new post in Geneva last July 15. She was replaced by Dr. Gabriel Iluppe.

The song is the message

"The MDGs are for technical issues," Iluppe said at the launch. "But ultimately they are about people—the farmer tending his crops, people living on P65/ MDG, the factory worker to consult our diverse calling for a guidance, the homeless child left to defend on economics and certain perils of the streets."

But he sought to be songs in the album, the UN official said, "the message of working together to end poverty overthrow is easy to reach and encourage every Filipino to do their part."

Hapee-PCU rips Granny Goose

COMEBACKING HAPEE PUT DWEEBZ into pumping easy from the South Pro Cup in the Northeastern regional the Olympia Green Satellite Headquarters, 82-56, in the 2006 PBL Visayas Cup pre-season game at the Lycurgus gym.

Anne Cleray, a prized find from Cebu, took the spotlight away from the team's popular Gabby Espinosa as he scattered 34 points, highlighted by three treys, that set the tone for the tournament win.

"Wonderful ang kanyang ng buta, nyak na maging marked man ito pagdating ng tournament," said team manager Armond Yang. "If you give him an inch, he will go for a mile, if you give him a mile, he will go for a three."

Hoping the Knights' with the Vital 11 Holdcraw lockout partner Mark Monroe who impressed Hapee coach Jessie Sarol with his creative plays and passionate skills. Marano, a product of West Hopes College in Sanford, finished with 16 points.

The Steadmasters controlled the first quarter behind the varied outside shooting of Jon Lacson and inside strength of Ed Quinones.

Kasibulan 6-12 Football Festival in Olongapo draws 60 squads

THE OLONGAPO CITY—DARKBLUES FOOTball Association (OCF 98) is staging a Kasibulan 6-12 Football Festival at the East Tapinac Sports Complex in Olongapo City, 802-06 presidents Hubert Magsaysay and Kasibulan to preserve Head Jeanne are expected to draw two-day event featuring over 1000 teams from four districts.

Special guests for the opening ceremony are City Mayor James Gordon, Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez, PFF Deputy Jose Jess and Director of Kasibulan Mountain Carpio and former Laguna 19 president Edward Magdalena.

SPORTSWATCH

Hoops School boosts training equipment

HOOPS School is bringing a top-of-the-line training gadgets to boost the learning skills of aspiring Filipino cagers. Former PBL commissioner and PBA Team Manager Charlie Davis said that just like any academic institution, training schools should also upgrade their equipment and facilities to keep pace with the latest trends in the sport. "Our objective is to provide the best environment ensure that the students get the best equipment and latest technology in its schools. Among the equipment that Hoops School will bring in are the latest shooting straps, shooting arm guards, heavy balls, and dribbling gears. Hoops School is also adding NBA-regulated backboards and shotclocks made by Spalding and Molly USA.

PICAA, Tri-Chinese caging opens

THE 2006 PICAA Open and Visayas Chinese basketball tournament opens today at the Philippine Architecture Academy gym in Bacolod City. Dr. Antonio Ang (Quezon City Outdoor City secretary Arevalo) will make the ceremonial toss with Philippine Chinese Athletic Federation (PCAF) vice president Christian Tan, directing the 1 p.m. opening ceremonies. National Basketball Conference (NBC) coach-assistant Sarong Cooking Oil coach Ronnie "PICAA chairperson Wang's Bakinski head the list of teams vetoing action in the two-month long tournament supported by Absolute Sportswear and the Emergency Paramedic Assistance Group. The other teams are 3 Wishes Rice Corporation, Bacolod Tobacco Corporation, Mandarin Telecoms, Chino Bakinski, CCM Automotive Components Corporation (Chino Philippines Head Tan), Barbarian Middleton Philippines College of Criminology (Anthony Sanz), Hong's Bakeshop and Golden Bell Restaurant (Owner/Chair Jeromy), the Filipino Chinese company Accountants and Angel Cooks, Bacolod Cooks, Hotel Bacolod, and Bacolod Tobacco Corporation. For inquiries, call/contact Executive Director "Joy" Ong at 300-0067 (morning only) or text Lucy at 0916-4488177.

Tour of Matabungkay Oct. 29-30

THE LIMITED-DAY/two-day Powerbike Tour of Matabungkay in Batangas returns to the road on Oct. 29-30 with another mix of challenging and recreational cycling competing. Presented by The Matabungkay Beach Resort Land Hotel with the objective of entertaining the beautiful white sand beach of Matabungkay in local travelers, the race will be passing through the towns of Lian, Nasugbu, Tuy, Balayan and Lemery. "We welcome the leading of the Tour of Matabungkay last May and we are happy that we have the honor to be part of this race which is expected to be held annually starting this year, and to grow bigger too, according to the organizers," said hotel GM Fernando Dimla. For details, contact 512-6353 or 09 05585.

Jacinto tops Rotax Max Novices

CHEF Jacinto of Team Blind won two trophies from Makati in the final round of the Rotax Max novice division of the Shell Super Karting Series recently at the Carmona Racing Circuit. Tied at 242 points coming into the 8-lap feature race had an advantage and the final checkered flag was displayed with Jacinto ahead of Ramos by less than a second and four laps to emerge as class champion for this group. Jacinto won the first heat and was comfortable ahead in the second heat until he was given a black flag on the final lap. Ramos was running ahead in the second heat but did not finish due to mechanical problems. Who set the stage for school domination between Jacinto and Ramos in the first heat of the race which he never relinquished. In the cadet novice class, 9-year-old Norma Jacinto took second career win honors. She also posted the best time during the first heat.

SJC girds up for big derby

THE SECOND part of Mid-Year's 9-day derby is slated at the air-conditioned San Juan Coliseum on Oct. 26 and 28 with at least 30 fights this cup. The derby will also act's son, on Wednesday. Eliminations of weights in each division. Host Prince Majesty of the contenders will come from the Gendarmes Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP), said Ramon Antonio. Among those entered are Brig. Antonio Ramos, Jose "Pepe" Ramos, Jr. Mayor of the Municipality of Antonio (MCA), Atty. Ramon Ramos, Pangasinan Rep. Larry "Boy" Ramos, Ambassador Ramos, Ambassador Ramos, Ambassador

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ibanez

US seeks action vs Syria

UN to discuss options after Hariri slay report

UNITED NATIONS—THE UNITED STATES LED CALLS FRIDAY FOR action against Syria after a UN investigator implicated top Syrian officials in the assassination of former Lebanese Premier Rafiq Hariri.

The report by UN investigator Detlev Mehlis is to be discussed by the UN Security Council in New York on Tuesday when prosecutor Serge Brammertz is also expected to brief the council.

Syria has denied involvement in the killing.

US President George W. Bush called the report "deeply disturbing" and said the United States would seek a meeting of the UN Security Council "as quickly as possible to deal with this very serious matter."

US secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, meanwhile, said: "This is a very serious matter—that you have Syrian involvement in the assassination of the former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri."

"There will have to be some way to assess accountability for what has already been found here," she said in a joint press conference with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in Birmingham, Alabama.

The chief UN diplomatic aide quoted from the report shows Vhear indications that the Syrian government had not been cooperating with the investigation into the Beirut bomb blast in February that killed Hariri and 20 other people.

Straw, on a tour of Iran's southern Iranian state, said Britain fully backed the US position on the report's findings.

"I obviously strongly agree with that," Straw said of Rice's remarks, adding that a Security Council meeting on the matter "should take place as soon as possible."

The British secretary cautioned, however, that it was unclear at this point what the consequences could be for Syria.

"We can't anticipate exactly how a discussion of a resolution is going to come out, but we will be very long very hard with France and other key partners to secure the best result," he stressed.

The Mehlis report, which was released Thursday, cited "converging evidence" of Syrian and Lebanese involvement and accused Damascus of blocking and misleading the investigation. AFP

Wilma hits Mexico, heads for Florida

CANCUN, MEXICO (AP) — Hurricane Wilma began flexing the Florida Keys and parts of the mainland on Thursday, while Wilma plodded toward Florida, its slower-than-expected path prompting the governor to declare a state of emergency that would let the state Monday.

The Category 4 hurricane earlier had been expected to strike somewhere on Florida's west coast this weekend. In a ...

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Bird flu found in UK, Croatia, spreads in Russia

LONDON—A FAINT REPORTS FROM Latin America has become the first herbs die of a scientific in Britain, bringing the danger of the deadly virus much further west across the European Union as the global battle against the disease continued on Saturday.

Meanwhile, yet another avian flu outbreak was reported in Russia, the virus in the southern Ural region of Chelyabinsk, and among swans on a Croatian lake.

Officials confirmed cases of the virus found in the poorer from Surinam, which died in the British quarantine.

The parrot tested positive for the H5 strain of the bird flu virus. It arrived in Britain from South America last month and had been held with a consignment of birds from Taiwan, Britain's agriculture ministry said.

The chief veterinary officer declined to speculate whether it had the lethal H5N1 strain, which has spread to Romania and Turkey.

In Moscow, the emergencies ministry said 11 birds in Sunday village in the Chelyabinsk region had died, and in each of six cases the diagnosis had been confirmed.

A Russian agriculture ministry official said Friday the risk of the lethal strain occurring in Moscow or surrounding areas was minimal, despite an outbreak in Tula, 200 km south of Moscow.

Russian veterinary services said Friday they suspected that the bird flu virus had some species in 14 areas, including 18 in the Novosibirsk region of Siberia, three in the Kurgan region east to the southern regions of Murmansk.

The Tula village of Yasnaboka, where the lethal H5N1 strain of the virus which has killed 41 people in Southeast Asia since 2003 was found, has been quarantined for three weeks with all poultry there being killed and buried.

Meanwhile neighboring Ukraine stepped up its controls on poultry imports.

Croatia said further tests were needed to determine if the virus detected in the dead swans was the H5N1 strain, feared to be the precursor of a human pandemic, or more widespread form of epidemic, that could kill millions.

The six swans were found in the Lake at Zdenci in eastern Croatia, one of 20 sites Croatian veterinary services have put under increased surveillance as part of a large-scale nationwide sample from wild birds.

The French agency for food safety AFS, has recommended increased scrutiny of wildlife, but stopped short of proposing poultry be confined.

The United Nations' food fa- ensure, there says China Friday where more than 30,000 birds have been destroyed to stamp out a new outbreak.

"The international community needs to cooperate fully to pre- test the health of the world's people," Chinese Health Minister Gao Qiang told UN envoy David Nabarro.

In Thailand, doctors reported the seven- year-old son of a Thai farmer who died of bird flu had also contracted the disease, but they said the virus had not mutated and still cannot pass easily among humans.

The farmer—the 63rd human victim of the virus worldwide since late 2003—died after slaughtering and eating a sick chicken.

"At this time the boy may have contracted the disease from the area where the chicken was dying. The boy had close contact with the virus (from) being around sick chickens) and possibly from handling the birds' excrement," Siriraj Hospital director Prasit Watanapa said.

In Romania, officials said a suspected new case of bird flu had been detected in the northwest, only hours after ministers said the outbreak of the deadly H5N1 virus had been contained to two southeastern provinces.

The World Health Organization (WHO) warned against "unnecessary panic" but it also said such additional human cases were making it easier to develop human-to-human transmission of the disease. AFP

US tycoon charged in Iraq oil scandal

NEW YORK—US prosecutors have charged a Texas oil tycoon and two Swiss executives and their companies with paying secret kickbacks to Iraq to win UN oil for food program.

Tycoon Oscar Wyatt, the former Coastal Corp. chief, was arrested in Houston, Texas, on Friday prosecutors said, becoming one of the highest profile figures ensnared so far in the scandal. The two Swiss nationals are facing weight for extradition.

The US attorney for the Southern District of New York charged Wyatt along with Catalan del Socorro Miguel Romero, alias Cathy Miguel, and Mohammed Saafir, 42, three fees up to 62 years in prison and heavy fines if convicted.

"Mr. Wyatt has vigorously defend against these charges," said Wyatt's lawyer Carl Parker in Houston.

Three companies were also charged, including the Cyprus based oil trading company Naftz Petroleum Company Ltd. and Absheron Trading Company Ltd., collectively known as the Wyatt Energy Companies.

Those firms were operated by Miguel and Saafir to close consultation with Wyatt, the statement said.

Also charged was Bayman, a Swiss consulting firm operated by Miguel and Saafir, prosecutors said in the statement.

"Wyatt, Miguel and Saafir obtained oil under the United Nations' oil for food program by paying millions of dollars in secret kickbacks to Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, these kickbacks were allegedly paid to the government of Iraq for oil allocated by the Saddam Hussein regime to the Wyatt Energy Companies and the Coastal Corporation," prosecutors said.

Specifically they allege that Wyatt, Miguel and Saafir diverted millions of dollars in illegal kickbacks to Saddam's government by depositing cash into a Jordanian bank account.

Wyatt also lobbied the United Nations to set an official selling price that would allow companies of the oil to pay the kickbacks and still profit, the statement said. Reuters

INJECTION Quake survivors at a refugee camp in the devastated area of Balakot, Oct. 21. With nearly 80,000 dead and 3.3 million people left homeless in the Himalayan valley in Pakistan and Kashmir, the 7.6- magnitude temblor is considered the area's worst disaster.

Untold numbers still cut off two weeks after quake

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN— The engineering battalion promised by Nato to help reach untold numbers of quake survivors in the rugged hills of northern Pakistan arrived scarce soon enough, an international aid official said on Saturday.

"At the moment, the emphasis is on the need for road engineers. If we can open the roads, they would solve everything," World Food Program spokesperson Mia Turner said.

"We're thinking more than 2,000 villages have yet to be reached and they have to be reached by roads," she said two weeks after the shattering earthquake killed more than 80,000 people and wrecked the few roads which wound high into the hills.

"If these people were unsecured, we wouldn't be carrying stuff up and down mountains on mules," she said as more trade routes set off up into the hills from the shattered Pakistani Kashmir capital of Muzaffarabad.

They are laden with food and, most urgently, tents in hopes of getting people under shelter before the harsh Himalayan winter descends to pose a fresh terror.

More than 74,000 people are known to have been injured and opening the roads would also allow the many (many) more in cut-off villages to get medical treatment without valuable time lost.

The helicopter aid fleet, fewer than 100, cannot deliver enough or reach everywhere and pilots report villagers waiting and at orange flags to signal they needed help, Turner said.

Some were even trying to clear areas for helipads and marking them with an X, the international symbol for such landing spots.

The Pakistani Army is working around the clock to open roads but, cowed by landslides or swept away by the Oct. 8 quake in Pakistani Kashmir and adjoining North-West Frontier Province.

Lt. Gen. Ashfaq Kiani said he hoped the road up Pakistani Kashmir's Jhelum valley would be reopened in a week, but it would take six weeks for the nearby Neelum valley.

Scenes of crowds unfit to bring survivors to safety were clashed on Friday when Nato turned down a United Nations appeal.

The US-dominated military alliance said it would send up to 1,000 troops to help, but would not stage an airlift to rescue survivors on the scale of the 1948-49 Berlin operation for the beleaguered people of Soviet-blockaded West Berlin.

"This is the first time Nato has done something like this on this scale," Nato Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said after the alliance agreed to the deployment.

Andre Dorin a battalion of Spanish, Polish and Italian reconnaissance engineers, Nato will send a multinational medical unit to back up UN efforts and a water purification team.

The WFP's Turner welcomed the decision. "Right now, there's a feeling we need all the help we can get. We need whatever they are providing, and more," she said, echoing other aid officials who complained the world is not doing enough to help.

But Nato still need only a few more helicopters to join the 40 that members of the alliance have sent.

"Nato is not a humanitarian organization. Nato is playing its role within the framework of what it is," De Hoop Scheffer said.

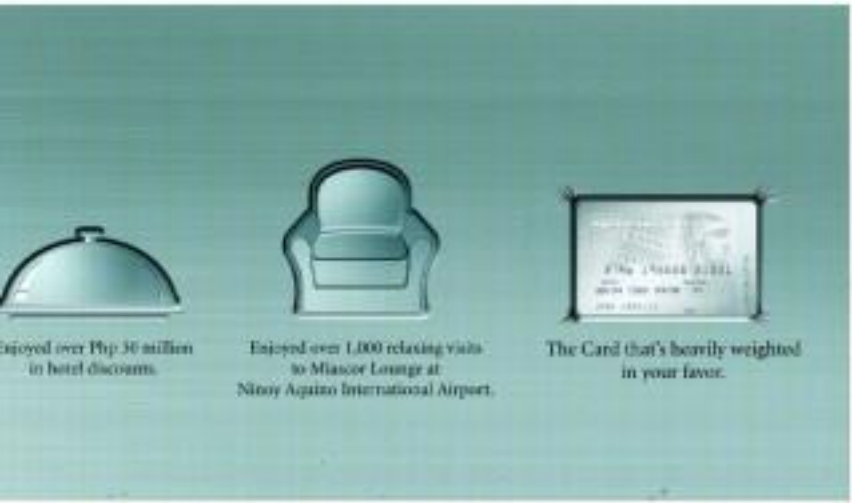
Helicopters are the only means of getting quickly deep into the hills. The nearest one to Indo, where the quake killed 1,300 people on its side of Kashmir, has it last fought two of its three wars with Pakistan over the region, which both claim.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf told India he would accept helicopters, but only if they came without arms given the enormous political sensitivity Indo and its.

Musharraf told the BBC he was ready to accept all other help, and talks had to be held with India on how the de facto border dividing Kashmir could be opened for the benefit of survivors.

But he also expressed disappointment that the world had not come forward with pledges of money to rebuild the shattered region, where the quake wiped out entire towns and villages.

"I know we have been donated about 20,25 million or something, which is totally inadequate," he said. "The sum should be more than $5 billion," he added. Reuters



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OPINION

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Uphill climb

THE RACE TO REPLACE OMBUDSMAN SIMEON Marcelo is on. According to the Judicial and Bar Council, 10 veteran lawyers have been nominated to fill one of the most powerful positions in government. But the JBC only proposes; it is the President who disposes.

Will President Macapagal-Arroyo take this second opportunity to appoint the country's chief godbuster to prosecute her own past presidency and wife?

EDITORIALS

In other words, will she name her own Desierto?

Desierto did not owe the conviction of corrupt public officials as his main responsibility; instead, the mere filing of cases suffered for him (perhaps he believed in their deterrence effect). He was also perceived as beholden to President Fidel Ramos, the man who put him in office.

When Mr Arroyo appointed Marcelo, then the solicitor general, to replace Desierto, many sectors voiced their reservations about the appointment. For one thing, Marcelo made his legal reputation as a member of the law firm closely identified with the President and the First Gentleman. For another, his government experience was slight at best.

But Marcelo quickly proved to be one of the President's best appointments. He revitalized the Ombudsman's office, raising its conviction rate dramatically and, as a direct consequence, its credibility among its many stakeholders. He assigned an arm's length distance between his office and Malacañang and fighting bureaucratic battles in his much bigger budgets. He breathed new life into anti-corruption initiatives, working with private consultants like Tony Kwok of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption and collaborating with investigative journalism.

His sudden resignation, caused by work-induced health problems, has therefore been a temporary setback for the government's anti-corruption campaign. (Words, in fact, has said he will continue to consult for the government on why if Marcelo's replacement is credible; that it is any semblance he can work with.) Thus, the President's responsibility is clear: Not to make the setback a permanent one.

The challenge for the rest of us is to make our voices heard above the din of hedging controversy. Rep. Douglas Cagas, Gilberto delos Ulmas, Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Hernandez, Court of Appeals Associate Justice Bienvenido Salazar Fernando, retired Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Mendoveo Peria, Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervasio, Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Sheverdan Cattarina, Supreme Court's Deputy Court Administrator Christopher Lock, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta, and Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

According to the JBC, those who object to any of the nominees have only until Nov. 30 to make their objections known. After that, it's up to the President and her conscience.

Slippery slope

A WEEK IS indeed a very long time in politics. Two Fridays ago, Sen. Jinggoy Madrigal found herself lifted, on a tide of tarmac-borne water, to the high ground. Since then, however, she has slipped back to earth, where the rest of us (to borrow the words of St. Paul) live and move and have our being.

How does one lose moral ascendancy? First, and in contravention of the law, you bring an armed bodyguard with you to a mass protest action. Perhaps, you feel the need to be protected against the fast pollet, perhaps, old (and old-style) habits are just hard to break.

Then you make a spectacle of yourself, surprising a police commander with a sudden attack of eyebrow-raising humor. To wit: You are the father of three policemen, I am the mother, so let's get married. This joke does not work on so many levels, it's hard to know where to start. But as an attempt to protect one's bodyguard, it is not very well disguised.

Lastly, you display the brains: on your leg for the world to see; you roll up your pants, deposit your leg on a table, and look like the eager stevies. In other words, you talk about your vast wounds. These, however, do not really amount to much other women and, perhaps, even some men with equally delicate skin will show a bruise if they so much as slip on the stairs. That an incumbent senator suffered a bruise because of the "wet" dispersal on Oct. 14 is of no moment; instead of putting us a show, Madrigal could have simply presented other victims—the ones who got it bad.

Is GMA the State?

SEPARATE OPINION

Joaquin A. Cruz

THE ADMINISTRATION IS SENDING THREATening voices about the takeover of certain private utilities because of rulings President Macapagal-Arroyo calls a state of emergency. Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez says the law it possible under Art. 435, Sec. 17, which provides that "in times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the State may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operations of any privately-owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

Secretary Gonzalez says the use in this, and Fr. Joaquin Bernas agreed in his column last Monday. They insist my dear Child was absolutely this power without the necessity of congressional authorization unlike the grant of emergency powers under Art. VI, Sec. 23(2) which says that "in times of war or other national emergency the Congress may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to such restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy. Unless sooner withdrawn by resolution of the Congress, such powers shall cease upon the next adjournment thereof."

The first quoted provision did not appear in the Commission's Committee has who is involved in the Marcos-directed Commission of 1973 during martial law. This fabulous document was rejected by the Freedom Constitution of 1986 that called for the reinstatement of "unjust and oppressive structures and all provisions wrongful of the previous regime." Despite that mandate, the said provision was retained in the Constitution of 1987. Father Bernas, who was a member of the Constitutional Commission of 1986, says that "here are allowed it to vary in the 1987 Constitution, I must admit, I cannot explain . . . in fact, I do not recall anybody objecting to it." He adds "the issue have been dozing when it slipped through."

I personally have no objection to the exercise of powers provided it is properly understood. It is in interpretation that I differ with Secretary Gonzalez and Father Bernas. Both of them say that the power allowed by the provision is vested solely in the President independently of legislative permission or over-prohibition. I disagree. I believe that like the extraordinary powers provided for under Art. VI, Sec. 23(2), the power to take over public utilities and privately-owned businesses affected with public interest can be exercised only by authority of a valid law.

President Arroyo's defenders say that the subject provisions can be interpreted in light of the conditions that prompted its adoption in 1973. The original meeting given to it during the despotism should be followed now in the application of the borrowed rule. Then, as it was Marcos who by himself alone took over public utilities during his dictatorship and all powers recognized by his Constitution as part of the law of the land, a similar singular power should be deemed vested in President Arroyo. Now, without congressional permission, its exercise by her should also be considered "valid, legal, binding and effective" even if we are no longer under martial law.

What is unmistakably obvious martyr to those who will not see is that when the 1973 Constitution and the its does could take over public utilities and private businesses affected with public interest, it was referring to Marcos. The State was Marcos. He was the absolute ruler of this republic land and was subject to no limitations under the Constitution that he himself devised and enforced. He are, no matter how outrageous, were part of the law of the land that the then scientific Supreme Court dutifully "legitimized."

Marcos was the State as long as his evil regime prospered, but it ended when he fell. And his military cannot—and should not—be considered under the present Constitution.

It is incredible that some people would give to the Commission of 1987 the same meaning given by Marcos and his lackeys to the Constitution of 1973. I cannot understand why they would attempt to give President under the 1987 Constitution the same and undiminished absolute power the state assumed under the Constitution of 1973.

Does the present charter that was supposed to eradicate all iniquitous vestiges of the past, not explain, also authorize the President to exercise the almost flagitious commanded by Marcos during his despotism? Shall we accept that in the exercise of a power reasonably legitimate, the President can act alone—as Marcos could—without the authority and limitation of a valid law? Shall we allow the atrocity to continue because the Constitutional Commission of 1986 made a mistake?

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is not the State. Let's not countenance her present arrogance and make her another Marcos.

Comfort zones

MOMENTS

Fr Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

AFTER THE 9-11 SHOOTOUT, AN AMERICAN general was asked if there was room for forgiveness for the terrorists. His answer was: "I believe that forgiving them is God's prerogative, our job is to arrange their meeting with God."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt 22, 34-40), Jesus tells forth the greatest of all the commandments.

Love of God stirs all of one's heart, soul and mind; and love of neighbor as oneself. Easier said than done. Why? Because here, Jesus relegates the self to less place. We, as we often hear, need to put the self first. From the human point of view that seems to be the most natural and logical way of things. Jesus, however, says it differently. "He who will be saved happiness for us unless God self-prejudice some before self. "The one who loses his life will find it."

* * *

We all have our comfort zones which we want to keep, preserve and maintain, and even prolong and broaden. When love comes knocking at our doors, our tendency is to close that it all. And we are good in making alibi for doing this. Love has reasons which reason itself does not know. When will you go beyond your rationalizations and endless comparisons, and just simply start loving without buts and conditions? Stupid? Crazy? Well, one must be really a little stupid and crazy when the topic is love, and really stupid and crazy when one loves.

* * *

Going through all the deserts of Egypt on one way to the Holy Land, this question cropped up in my mind: Why did God make deserts? What's the use of those vast tracts of arid land? In the same way, we must have often asked God why He lets us pass through hardships, sickness, loneliness, failures, sorrows, corrupt rise, perhaps, in the desert, one becomes more trusting and more in tune with God. Deprived of comfort zones, one can't help but reach out, and hold on to the One who disturbs and challenges comfort zones.

* * *

Turning upon one eloquent topic in the desert, I had that other question: Why did God create the serpent, which is the last thing in this that an such a loathsome animal? They know exactly to strike, just when one is about to fall asleep? In the same way we must have often asked God why there are temptations in our lives, people who hurt us, and why there are life unhappy for us. I really have no answers except that mysterious keeps us awake and fresh our comfort zones to help us love more and become lower persons.

* * *

If deserts make life hard for us, and if mosquitoes disturb us, then for us readers are to become desert makers or mosquitoes to other people. Are you a desert maker, are you a mosquito to other people? If your answer is in the affirmative, that is because you put your love of self above your love of God and love of neighbor.

* * *

I asked my brother Manong Dante what it is like to go out into the desert and be bit by scorpions. His response: "Oh long before Jesus. As long as you do what you really believe in, and as long as you do your mission for God and for the nation, then you do not mind the troubles, the pains, the hurts and the hardships. Those people are the persons who are more handled are more free than those who are so dead to undesirable them and those that so dread them." I said now you are still not the tanned by the situation, and still are not worth "the desert, then something is awfully wrong.

* * *

On a personal note, I would just like to thank God for 25 years in the priesthood this coming Dec. 23. Unworthy as I am, mistakes and shortcomings notwithstanding, the gift and responsibility of priesthood have to for been the greatest blessing and challenge in my life. Priesthood has been a constant leaving of home and going beyond comfort zones, all because of a God who called me for a mission. No regrets. Just grateful for all that has been and the glorious will be.

* * *

Inviting you to the book launching of "Inquiet Moments (Cycle 3)," a collection of my Sunday columns in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, on Oct. 28, 2006 in the Mother Theresa, as mentioned in the 23rd. Enrico Gomez is the emcee. Tickets are available at the Claret The Bing Seminary, for the benefit of our Filipino SVD missionaries abroad. For particulars, please call 721-7467 or 914-7046.

* * *

By the way, don't forget that today is World Mission Sunday. Please continue to pray for our missionaries. Thanks also for your lovely and generous support so we can realize our efforts to support our Filipino missionaries.

* * *

Because related to some of the most scheduled psycho-spiritual retreat "Healing & Understanding Through Inner Journey Process through Psychogenesis & Gestalt Therapy in the Light of the Gospel" on Oct. 29-30, Nov. 11-13, 26-27 and Dec. 12-13. Please contact Fr. Ed Pogoy, SVD at 0917-5434330 or send an e-mail to edlpogoy2002@yahoo.com.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that true loving is moment learning of my comfort zones. Amen.

'The Ships with the BIG MOUTH'

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST THURSDAY, OCT. 20, WAS THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY of the Leyte landing. Students of history will remember that the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese occupation was in our time the natural fruit of the grand strategy of Allied forces in the Pacific. Admiral Ernest King, supervising the US Navy, was in favor of bypassing the Philippines and leapfrogging further south to Formosa in the drive to reach the Japanese mainland. Under the chairmanship of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who seemed to endorse his "I shall return" pledge when he left Corregidor during the dark days of May 1942, Jorge Vargas, Quezon's executive secretary, was sent to Washington to lobby for the Philippines if it had been bypassed. We would have been spared the deadly and devastating battle that destroyed Manila and killed more than 100,000 civilians, which by any standard is one of the worst massacres in modern history. It resulted in the horrible deaths of so many civilians and non-combatants at the hands of suicidal Japanese marines who stayed behind to defend the city. Manila would not have suffered so much physical destruction from both the defenders and the liberators.

A few days after the Leyte landing, the Battle for Leyte Gulf was fought—an action considered by many historians as the greatest naval battle of World War II, and by some as history's greatest naval engagement. C. V. Pitrofanoff, who wrote the book "The Battle for Leyte Gulf," says that in all naval history has a power risked so much in one operation as the Japanese did at Leyte Gulf and rarely has any power suffered such an overwhelming defeat." For the Japanese, the loss at Leyte meant the loss of the Philippines and where, ally doomed their chances of victory in the war.

* * *

Most memories of naval operations involve the role of battleships, cruisers, aircraft carriers, and destroyers. There is little that has been written about what Interstate Norman Mailer and Thomas B. Allen in their book "World War II, America at War," considered to "probably the most important ship in the filled was fifties."

That ship was the USS Mount Wilson, which served as an amphibious Force flagship during World War II, has just published in a book —"USS: The Ships with the BIG MOUTH." It is about Landing Ship Tank (LST) 648, a vessel on which he served as assistant navigator from June 1944 up to November 1945. Russell participated in both the Leyte and Lingayen landings.

* * *

After Pearl Harbor, military experts determined that the Pacific War would be like no other conflict before. Most of the islands in the area had no docks. The need was for a special kind of ship that could bring the troops and their equipment right up to the beaches. The US Navy's Bureau of Ships responded to its senior tanks designed and built C. Nickerson is credited for its actual design.

The LST was 328 feet long with a 50-foot beam. It had a shallow draft promising a much closer approach to my beach, and to structural arrangements provided unusual strength and buoyancy. An overarching design objective was to create a maximum tank deck beneath the main deck, which was capable of taking on 20 tanks or 1,900 tons of any combination of vehicles and cargo. After the LST hit the beach, its bow doors opened and a huge ramp dropped from over the door.

Mount was launched in 1944, the 13-volume history of US Naval Operations in World War II, reported that the LSTs were the "handsomest of the fleet." The arrival of the LSTs in 1941 dramatically changed the complexion of fighting in the Pacific and made the US "the backbone of the amphibious force." By the end of the conflict, 1,051 had been built. Another one was responsible of the Douglas C-47 which was the workhorse of the Air Force. The first ground-up came out in 1933, but actual production started only in 1942. While fighter and bomber aircraft were highlighted in most air operations, the Century fleet as the C-47 was known, was never known and was the largest moving aircraft in aviation history.

* * *

Ernest Russell, a journalism graduate from the University of Wisconsin, was commissioned in 1944 and ordered to report to LST-648 in New Orleans. On Oct. 20, 1944, LST 648 was one of 738 ships that participated in the Leyte landing. In the third wave, it dropped tanks and troops of the 96th Infantry Division and by midnight, 132,000 men and more than 200,000 tons of supplies and equipment had been landed on the island of Leyte.

The news big camp in the war was the amphibious operation on Lingayen Gulf in Pangasinan. LST 648 was part of Task Group 77 with Navy supply ships on board. They would be responsible for building roads and erecting bridges on Luzon to speed the advance of troops to Manila. The task dock carried Bailey bridges that could easily be assembled to cross streams and gaps.

In a letter to his wife Fran, Russell wrote that he had now been in two invasions and had scarcely seen the enemy. "So LST doesn't go looking for trouble. It moves slowly to its destination. When it's unloaded, it clears out. Its it's a long way from the front lines. I suppose I've got to be here, it might as well be on an LST."

Tomorrow, Dec. 26, Homer and Fran Russell mark their 63rd wedding anniversary. They have four children, William, Ann Martinelle, Clayton (regional director for Associated Press in San Francisco) and Ernest Russell, a recent graduate of Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, contributed her technological and editing skills in putting this book together. Our congratulations to all!

When the silent speak

"We live political births. Good, The crime is ripe. The dictator is ready. He is a semi-ascending dictatorial who proclaim until dictatorship outside. The people are restive. And the opposition it's ready." — Bonifacio Ilustrisimo Jr., 1980

I WAS SHOCKING TO HEARS FORMER VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona was blasted by a senior customs during a prayer rally last Friday. The same gentleman, who was thrown in jail in 1972 for openly opposing the Marcos regime, accused Arroyo.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

on the front lines, soaked in the rain, barely able to stand and yet with eyes brave enough to make a rambling jab both good.

Guingona is 77 years old, a few years younger than my grandfather. He was caught unawares by the torrent of words that silenced thought. He blinked before his knees. Whether or not he and company had a permit, and whether or not they were beyond the limits of the allowed route, one thing was clear—the degree of force used on them was one they calibrated not even intended.

I'm outraged, I'm disillusioned, and I'm one curious blast away from tears.

When the regime administration stopped laws and acts of the Marcos regime, it decided to promote superficial laws. That law is outstanding in its specificity regarding the protection of human rights. RP 9003. The Oldest Assembly Act of 1995, is an "act ensuring the free exercise by the people of their right peaceably to assemble and petition the government."

This law makes very clear the priority of the state (even one under a dictator): the protection of the freedom to speak.

This is the same law that the current administration is using to justify its acts of repression. The CPR (calibrated preemptive response) is a new and dubious name politicians and government agencies gave to the probably innocuous rule to replace the term "repression," best of saying "we should see other people" is mind or "let's break up." It's the same human, just packaged in a human's box instead of a brown paper bag.

Nobody really knows what the CPR is, only its results. What we know is this: we have CPR against communists, activists that would never have been considered before are now being hailed and upheld by this government. Junior Secretary Ismi Gonzales—who, I like to think, is the opposition's undercover agent—claimed that the CPR is simply the law in RP 880. Police Director General Romeo Lomibao was more explicit. The CPR, he said, is the "application of the correct meaning of maximum tolerance as provided for in Batas Pambansa 880."

If they insist on the same thing, why the new catchword? RP 880 states that maximum tolerance "means the highest degree of restraint that the military, police and other personnel keeping authority shall observe during a public assembly or in the dispersal." It's respect the same thing, they why were the police so gung-ho with their truncheons and water cannons? The law states explicitly: tear gas, smoke grenades, water cannons, or similar anti-riot devices cannot be used unless there is "actual violence or serious threats of violence, or deliberate destruction of property."

Unless Guingona had brandished MS 16 and hung flashlinked units under their dripping polo shirts, I seriously doubt they were a clear and present danger to the state. In a democracy, the state can protect itself against rebellion. But when people raise their placards against the President, they don't threaten the state. They threaten the security of tenure of the one elected to office. I know, the President and the state are two very different things.

The People Power of 1986 exploded because of Ninoy Aquino's murder and the evidence cheating during the snap elections. The Senate was disallowing the opening of the "second envelope" in the impeachment trial of President Estrada (opening of the second envelope of 2001, and crammed false with black-clad students.

For such powerful and open an eruption of unity and democracy, we need a tyrant, a smoking gun, a reason to believe without the shadow of doubt, that our sovereignty is being stolen.

Most citizens of the University of the Philippines are automatically branded as activists. You are an activist, and therefore are more of us. I like to think that the parliament of the streets is a last recourse, a place of final judgment, when all else has failed. When the Garci tapes came out and many clamored for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster and resignation, I chose to stay. Her mandate is over. "Let's exhibit the rule of law," I whispered, and I stood by it.

Now the law itself, the one thing that people like me hang on to in the hope of stability, is being twisted according to the needs of one individual. In such a situation, people like us are likely to rebel. And that's what the government should fear.

RA 8486, RP 880 requires permits for rallies that are to be held in areas that are not designated freedom parks. But the law also states that permits can be denied only when there is "imminent and grave danger of a substantive evil."

Gen. Ifluro volunteers and local executives now consider removing traffic as substantive evil. I won't debate on the chances of hen-some dictator—but there gets the bright idea of spending Manila. A rally of 300 citizens is not going to mean that much of a dent in public transportation. But when that rally hits thousands, traffic will be the least of the government's problems.

Would the march to not just a constitutional right. As RP 880 says, there is no monopoly on truth. Freedom of speech exists because it is grounded that there is no one voice of reason. Even if a person is "wrong," he has the right to say that "wrong"—and only then may everyone, who wants to, rip it apart.

Hot just calls demonstrations "protests of intolerance." The nature of a demonstration is to provoke violence as it, self—to the appeal to the state's democratic conscience (if it exists) or shock the cruelty of the state. Last week, cruelty showed in its peak.

The government says the choices are clear: the black and white of civility or repression. Extreme peace and strife. It's not so simple. There is a middle ground between freedom of speech on the one hand, and peace and order on the other. That's why laws exist. But when push comes to shove, I'll take the side of the freedom of speech—even if it's not mine.

When I choose not to rally, it is my right—as much as it is the right of everyone else to speak with a megaphone in Mendiola.

In 1972, when people like Guingona and Benigno Aquino Jr. were rallying people to their side, Marcos declared martial law—and then dragged a 14-year saga of his own terror.

Today's government is afraid. It has a reason to be. It has fear that democracy is the most dangerous of regimes, where some people who contract peace now could end up wielding their own machineries in Mendiola.

And that is when the government should be very, very afraid.

* * *

Send comments to pat.evangelista@gmail.com

Graver threat to the world than terrorism

COMMENTARY

Rod Constantino

FOR ALL THE HYSTERIA TALK ABOUT NATIONAL security in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia, what is curiously missing in the discussions is the one issue that may just define the future well-being—or misery—of the country and the region.

Some call the issue global warming. Scientists refer to it as climate change. It is the greatest threat facing the planet today, and it is only going to get worse unless we solve the problem.

It is important to understand that climate change and any single weather event, including the recent intense hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the devastating typhoons that visited the Philippines this year. Current scientific evidence strongly suggests that climate change is causing hurricanes more destructive as ocean temperatures rise. The rise in greenhouse gas concentrations will also very likely further increase ocean temperatures.

Dr. Kerry Emanuel, a hurricane expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, made an important effort. In words recently, based on his research, that "The large (storm) upswing in the last decade is unprecedented, and probably is due to the effect of global warming."

Although cyclone dynamics currently surrounds the publication of Emanuel's work, in the end, the answer to what has caused recent destructive typhoons is of little practical value. Whether or not the recent rise in the number of hurricanes and typhoons hit the likelihood that global warming would make hurricanes even worse in the future.

There is no lack of evidence that human-induced climate change is underway. The impacts are being felt from Alaska to Florida to each Southern Africa, India, Southeast Asia, China and the melting Russian Arctic.

Up to 40 percent of China's glaciers are projected to disappear by 2050, paving the way for a significant decrease in the country's population who are dependent on the water released from those glaciers, and raising the possibility of future water-related international tensions conflicts.

More recently, Thailand was unable in the grip of a deadly drought which affected 63 of the country's 76 provinces and cost the government $193.2 million in damages. Over the next 100 years, the Philippines is projected to "be the latest in global warming," said Dr. Ernesto Corpuz, vice chair of the UN-formed intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the foremost global authority on the issue. In this region, models have projected that crop yields can drop as temperature rises. It is a fact that staples in the Philippines are not warmer than they were 30 years ago.

It was also estimated by an institute that from the 1970s to the present, the global area affected by drought has doubled due to climate change. It study conducted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado found widespread drying and increased risk of drought, including Asia, and identified rising global temperatures as the major factor for increased drought.

Coral bleaching events in Southeast Asia and the Pacific are set to rise in frequency and intensity if the current business-as-usual scenario holds. Corals tend to die in great numbers (mass deaths following coral bleaching events.

Considered as one of the most diverse habitats in the marine region, the Philippines is home to 488 coral species out of the 500 known coral species worldwide. Over a third of the 2,500 known fish species in the Philippines are reef associated.

According to the international coral reef expert, Dr. Clive Wilkinson, "unprecedented global warming can spell "catastrophe for tropical marine ecosystems everywhere," with bleaching events "very likely" occurring annually within three decades. The period of the 1990s was the warmest in the recorded history and 2005 was the hottest year of all. The 1998 episode could become commonplace inside 20 years.

There is more to the current bad news than high oil prices. Since the industrial revolution, massive carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions produced by burning fossil fuels such as coal—the dirtiest fossil fuel—have seriously altered the composition of the planet's atmosphere and capped the sun's energy, creating increasingly devastating, chaotic weather patterns.

Global warming is considered by 11 of the most distinguished national science academies, gave unequivocal advice to world leaders in July: "The scientific understanding of climate change is now sufficiently clear to justify nations taking prompt action." Despite the opinion of hundreds of thousands, however, business-as-usual seems the Philippines included.

Less than 6.5 percent of the installed power capacity in the Philippines—around 15,000 megawatts—is based on renewable energy sources such as wind power, solar and modern biomass. On the other hand, the Philippines seems keen on constructing and expanding a plague of coal plants and other sources in the next few years. If national security is indeed high on the agenda of the Philippine government, this spectacular imbalance has to change and soon.

There is no denying that countries such as the United States, China, India—the world's three biggest polluters both—are responsible for a proportion chunk of the problems. But far too many fail to keep on blaming others for the climate crisis threatening our shores. We, too, must do our share. The world's people of the Philippines demands it. The abundance of renewable energy resources in the country warrants it. The future of the entire planet requires it.

It is high time for the Philippine government to move beyond lip service and adopt effective policies to genuinely secure our nation's security by the year 2050. 10 percent of our power must come from the sun, the wind and modern biomass.

* * *

Rod Constantino is regional energy campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

When religious leaders speak

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WHEN THE RELIGIOUS DEBATE SPEAKS, POLITICIANS have to listen. Of the country's numerous religious communities, the first whom commands the most attention is the one that can mobilize the most politicians. To a lesser degree, El Shaddai wields a similar political clout. This is the power of small but tightly organized groups. The Catholic Church is several times bigger but it does not determine its political influence by numbers.

Therefore, when INC's Executive Minister Eraño Manalo and El Shaddai's Bro. Mike Velarde come together to take a position on the political crisis, what they say can shape the manner of its resolution. I do not mean to suggest that they should, but only that they can. The political reality in our country—a reality that I hope we may someday transcend. For I fully subscribe to John Dewey's belief that: "Men have never fully used the powers they possess to advance the good. In every age they have been victims of forces too great external to themselves and to native to do the work they are responsible for doing."

As Eraño and Brother Mike, as they are often called by politicians and legions of followers, have decided to step into the political fray, they are not the political technology that have been going on for months and have been hacking our nation so much, particularly its economy. They have asked their followers their efforts on the alleviation of the people's suffering, and to resolve the political crisis "in accordance with democratic means." In such a way as not to "consume the greatest part of their time and energy" to the neglect of "the pressing needs of our people."

The statement is not the empty rhetoric of a cultic politician. It is one that administrators and opposition to find a suitable compromise but the situation is so tensive to a point where neither side will settle for. The call is addressed to politicians; it provides no guidance to ordinary people who may wish to be more than just spectators to the economic paralysis by their increasingly restless behavior.

Eraño and Brother Mike may be very well qualified to break their silence on the issues facing the country. It is encouraging that their joint statement does not counsel the public to just move on as if nothing happened. It is a fact that the people voted for their moral wisdom, one hopes they may also break their silence on such questions as the following: (1) Are the allegations brought out by the Garci tapes worth investigating? (2) Is the dismissal of the impeached ombudsman against Mr. Arroyo an institutional grounds merely debatable? (3) Is it reasonable to inquire into widespread allegations of the misuse of public funds in the 2004 election? (4) Is the arroyo-initiation front about accountability for the way she executes the powers and prerogatives of her office? (5) Do the people have a moral basis to question the right of Mr. Arroyo to remain in office and to set their grievances to the streets?

As a secular democrat, I wish that the exercise of one's faith were a purely private and personal matter, and that the guidance of one's religious elders did not extend to one's political behavior. But the contingencies of our people's history and the particularities of our nation's life compel us to take into account religion's role in the shaping of our democracy. Until we can have a fully secular society, we have to live with the reality that religion refers to the "the institutional realization of religious practice"—our people will have to turn religious leaders for direction in almost every aspect of their lives. This gives leaders like Eraño and Brother Mike, and to a lesser degree the Catholic bishops, a special responsibility to contribute to either the advancement or the retardation of Philippine democracy.

Once they take up this role, there is almost no room for neutrality. Religious leaders have been relatively silent on questions that have a direct political bearing, or was made into the water with open hearts and eyes over positions as death and as unequivocally as possible. The political silence of the Catholic bishops' Conference of the Philippines in July unfortunately lent itself to such equivocation when it called for reflection and discernment by the laity while explicitly stating its aim not calling for Mr. Arroyo's resignation. It is a fact for from the straightforward statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in July in this regard, because a source of courage and wisdom. The Jesuit community in the Philippines, through its Commission on the Social Apostolate, has issued in some six weeks what it calls "guidelines in a time of confusion and crisis." The Jesuit's moral statement can be formulated by asking one question:

To commit not to destroy or to obey. It means a moral position, and does not lend itself to analysis the situation in its light. Without saying explicitly what should happen next, it points the way. It shows the way forward. The quest for the truth at all costs, ultimately a moral imperative, runs through the whole document.

Did Brother Mike and his Iglesia call the latest statement of intelligence that Joint exists of the past, and the present? Looking into the causes of the current political crisis, it connects the escalation of poverty to the massive violation of the corrupt political system that has bred the present crisis. It says: "Indeed, the assault for the truth is integrally linked to the struggle for poor. Corruption and dishonesty have made the rich of the poor worse."

To call for an end to lukewarm, without understanding their causes is to belittle the people's outrage against the system. It is to take the side of power.

* * *

Comments to public.free@gmail.com

TALK of the TOWN

Press and feedback to: opinion@inquirer.net.ph

Editor Joaquin P. Bernardino Jr.

Flying out of the Air Force

THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE COUNTRY'S ENTIRE FLEET OF F-5S ON OCT. 1 at the Basa Air Base in Pampanga marked the end of an era. The fighter planes, the backbone of the country's air defense system, left the Philippine Air Force (PAF) without a supersonic fighter plane.

Credit goes to the PAF maintenance crew for keeping some of the 37 F-5s flying beyond their 25-year life span. The planes were donated by the United States between 1965 and 1990.

Without enough funds, the Philippines can neither replace the F-5s with new fighter planes nor acquire other aircraft to expand its fleet even as its warfighters acquire more of the air fighter planes. Among the recent additions to the PAF fleet were four Bronco fighter planes. These were donated by Thailand in 2000.

Over the years, the PAF has lost many helicopters and Italian-made S-211 trainer jets to crashes, reducing the number of its aircraft to a total of 320 (see table). With more than 2,000 PAF pilots, there are simply not enough aircraft to fly in the Philippine military.

Better pay and benefits are luring scores of PAF pilots to the commercial airline industry. The airlines offer pilots between P80,000 and P180,000 a month. In contrast, the government offers pilots a starting salary of P17,000 a month. The PAF's loss has become the commercial airline industry's gain.

Military pilots joining airlines in droves

By Jocelle Badilla

LIKE ROOSTERS CLEEKING AMIDST parachutes shroud, many military pilots are joining commercial airlines, according to Lt. Col. Rustican Bellido, spokesperson of the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

Bellido could not say how many have actually filed their resignations in recent months.

But Khaye Angeles de la Peña, assistant director of the PAF Public Information Office, said that at least 24 pilots who were assigned to the country's various main bases tendered their resignations this past month.

He said that last year, the figure was just 23.

In fact, some of them are known to us here, images of attending clearance or are undergoing training with commercial airlines," another PAF official said.

In Cebu Pacific, for example, 19 percent of its pilots are former military officers who had served from 10 years to government.

These pilots were seen in local flights the regular pay they were receiving from the military.

The PAF pilot's starting pay is P17,000 a month while the monthly income of commercial pilots ranges from P80,000 to P80,000 for second and first officers, and as high as P180,000 for captains, depending on length of service.

Better perks

The perks are definitely much better than what the government can offer. Besides long rides for them and their dependents, allowances, including pensions, provide their pay and free trips here and abroad.

Gen. Willy Rimas, a member of the Philippine Veterans Association (PVA) from 1990 until the time of the Presidential Security Group, said the main reason is "the lack of the President."

"I like the service because I have a great

Paper trail

Recognizing that the Air Force is not to blame for the exodus, Rimas said:

"Naturally, there are always ill documents that are should secure like basic weapons, ammunition and maintenance, under constants of assets and liabilities, prevent marshal," a recurring pilot officer said.

Another said that "sorting the paper signed a new issue. Orders are filing their resignation properly (see some) senior commanders, after three time to sign the resignation papers," he said.

He also revealed that some of the pilots who tendered their resignations were reassigned to other units or were put on AWOL (absent without leave) status, but this was denied by Padilla.

"The moment you file your resignation, it automatically becomes accepted and [the] pilot is given clearances to comply [with]. His resignation goes to the personnel and it will be forwarded to the PAF headquarters. From there, it will be forwarded to the general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo and to the Department of National Defense. That's the last will forward it to whatever," he said.

"The matter would be two to three months," Padilla said.

He said that pilots who signify their intention to resign should sign the certificate of non-pendency.

"The government has no obligation to pay them while they were for the processing of their papers," the PAF spokesperson said.

70 leaving

Just how serious are the resignations?

"The actual number of pilots who have filed the resignations or have applied from retirement is around 70," a ranking PAF officer who asked not to be named.

Part of the 24 pilots officers who resigned this year belong to the PAF's Binding Class of '91, which includes Antonio Parlade Jr., son of Defense Secretary Orlando Parlade Jr. and Col. Parlade said that those who resigned had already served the eight-year mandatory service.

He acknowledged that those who left short of the mandatory eight-year service "are not required to pay for the unexpired part of their contract as they could have the money."

"There are just other money but a lot of pilots would like to leave. Many people in [the] Binding Class [of] '91 [will] feel all are dependents on [the] training in the [United States]. Some of those who also applied for resignations are not necessarily joining the commercial airlines but others. The other reason is to join their spouses who work abroad," Padilla said.

He said that the PAF has lost many helicopters and Italian-made S-211 trainer jets to crashes, reducing the number of its aircraft to a total of 320 (see table). With more than 2,000 PAF pilots, there are simply not enough aircraft to fly in the Philippine military.

Lack of aircraft

He said the wrong motion term "lack of aircraft" is the PAF spokesperson said.

At present, there are 63 pilots for every aircraft, making some pilots unable to fly regularly.

"When other hours the aircraft and [can] be commercial airlines regularly every 45 [minutes] or the hours per. They are other the superiority" to fly and some [are] complete," he said.

A pilot officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said: "There is nothing to look forward to in the Philippine Military."

"I don't have any intention to [such messages] with my military career," he said.

Ben pilots said their reason for leaving was the lack of aircraft to fly as recruits. they don't get the 50 percent mandated flying pay.

Padilla said, "The PAF has no right to limit them [other] other than have served their contracts."

"A law in the Air Force is not a law in the country. The general everyday says [that] the lack of aircraft to fly as recruits, they don't get the 50 percent mandated flying pay.

Padilla said, "The PAF has no right to limit them [other] other than have served their contracts."

"A law in the Air Force is not a law in the country. The general everyday says [that] the lack of aircraft to fly as recruits, they don't get the 50 percent mandated flying pay.

(Jocelle Badilla is on the staff of the AM Inquirer Bureau.)

Moonlighting

By Fe Zamora

BY THE TIME THIS ARTICLE is published, at least four Air Force pilots will have finished training as a commercial airline flight attendant or stewardess.

In another month or so, the batch will have its flying hang for the second phase of the training program.

Within three months from finishing the simulator training, these pilots would be ready to fly on the Boeing or Airbus 747 airline or second officer in first officer, depending on their qualifications. But there's a hitch. But have yet totally severed their ties from the Philippine military.

The pilots are subject to leave, or have applied for terminal leave, or are waiting for approval of their resignation, to be exact, on official.

Lt. Col. Jose Reyes, Philippine Air Force (PAF) chief, said the pilots [and] are based [military] rules and regulations.

"If they [resign] they are not entitled to [leave. I will have them recalled. If they do not report to their units, I will have them apprehended," Reyes said.

Under the privilege to go on terminal leave [or] there is a provision there that after six months, they cannot [still employ] them outside the PAF," he said.

Lured by higher pay, better benefits and a brighter future in commercial aviation, military pilots are flying away

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Gov calls anti-jueteng czar 'mad dog'

BATANGAS CITY—THE GOVERNOR OF BATANGAS province who was mentioned in a Senate hearing as one of the country's biggest gambling lords described anti-jueteng czar Edward Hagedorn, also Puerto Princesa mayor, as a "mad dog" for alleging that "jueteng" has resumed in Batangas and other parts of Luzon.

Speaker on Friday called Hagedorn a hungry, a Batangueño slang for "mad dog," after Hagedorn said the illegal numbers game has resurfaced in the province and other parts of Luzon.

During a news briefing inside his office just before the inauguration of the refurbished provincial capitol grounds, Sanchez scoffed at Hagedorn for saying that jueteng operations resumed in Batangas.

Sanchez, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, was mentioned by witness Ben Hayon as one of the biggest jueteng lords in the country.

"Nasisiraan siya. Baka siya ang nagpapatakbo. Bakit siya alam na hawakan na ang jueteng? Ako'y a mad dog, he could be behind the jueteng operations. How did he know that jueteng has resumed?," Sanchez said, reacting to a question from a journalist.

"Eh ang governor kasi, i should know better than him. Even my mayors don't know anything about the supposed resumption of jueteng," he added.

Sanchez played down Hagedorn's effectiveness as anti-jueteng czar, saying the illegal numbers game has stopped even before the mayor was appointed to the position by Malacañang early this year.

He said Hagedorn, who admitted in Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's hearing in Pasay City that he was a financier to Puerto Princesa, was issuing statements about the resumption of jueteng as a leverage to push for the implementation of small-town lottery.

Speaker dared Hagedorn to present what he says proof to Batangas where jueteng allegedly resumed.

"When I'm saying it was, There is no more jueteng in Batangas," said the governor, who was cited for graft at the Ombudsman for the alleged stopping of a P300-million construction project in his province. Marlon Ramos, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

South Leyte overtakes Davao in rice harvests

MAASIN CITY—SOUTHERN Leyte has overtaken the province of Davao as the No. 1 rice producer in the country, the head of the Department of Agriculture here said.

Lee Caballo, DA regional director in Eastern Visayas, said the province's rice production program of the provincial government has made Southern Leyte the top rice producer in the country surpassing Davao in terms of hectares planted to "Hybrid" and "Inbred" certified seeds in the April-to-October cropping season.

Southern Leyte was only second to Davao in the September 2004 to April 2005 cropping season in the implementation of the hybrid rice program nationwide, Caballo said.

Caballo said the success was attributed to the provincial government's intensified campaign to rice commercialization. The province has also been recognized as the top farmer organization in the region's best performer in commercialization of hybrid rice.

Using hybrid "Hipanis" and "Mapalay" seeds planted in about 23,000 hectares, the rice production of the province almost doubled, from 70 cavans to 135 to 140 cavans per hectare, Caballo said. *Jose Arnado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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What do you call an anniversary in charge of a division of a university or college?

INQUIRER

Lottery backing withdrawn

LEGAZPI, PHILIPPINES—THE provincial board on Friday pulled an endorsement of a test run of the "Lotteng ng Bayan" in Bicolanandia after the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office denied accepting its supposed proposal to operate the game.

During a committee hearing on the proposal of the Bicolano Numbers Co. Inc., PCSO provincial affairs Assistant Director said the PCSO "has not considered any company" to operate the Lotteng ng Bayan because the lottery is exclusively government.

Bascot said only Congress approves all forms of lottery being implemented by the PCSO.

A project proposal earlier submitted by Bobsolo Dee, a consultant of the Bicolano Numbers Co. Inc., to the provincial board showed that the Lotteng ng Bayan is a "repackaged small town lottery (STL) project." It will be run in selected provinces where "jueteng" is operating or had operated.

Lauren Cesar Cadiz, counsel of the Bicolano Numbers Co. Inc., told the provincial board that he did not know how the company would run the lottery.

Cadiz's comment drew the ire of Board Member John John Bonoan.

"How can we endorse something we know nothing about?" Bonoan told Cadiz.

Board Member Emmanuel Camacho withdrew his endorsement after lottery proposal "until the PCSO and Congress will agree it is allowed and legal."

"There is no reason why I should continue supporting the lottery," he said.

Legazpi Baggage Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who earlier opposed the survey of Lotteng ng Bayan in the province, welcomed the board's decision to pull the endorsement.

"I'm happy that the resolution was withdrawn. I got a period in the province. I thank all those concerned and big shots in gaming [who] for other moral ways and means to help the needy," Cruz said.

The bishop, who thinks the corresponding Bicolandang Bicolano Laban sa Jueteng (National Crusade Against Jueteng), was invited to the committee hearing on Friday but he did not show up during the session.

The Bicolano Numbers Co. Inc., however, has not given up on the lottery's operation in Pangasinan.

Cadiz said the company would again try to propose the lottery's operation when a complies with the requirements set by the PCSO and the provincial board.

A letter from Makati City administrator Nicanor Santiago Jr. addressed to Lotteng ng Bayan Manila Bureau, board secretary, said the company has "no permit to set up any Bicolano Numbers outlet in any part of Makati."

Cruz said the Lotteng is the same STL that the government was planning to run to replace illegal jueteng operations. The police said crackdown operations of jueteng is under prevalence in the country but it opposed Jason Agoli. Palawan Governor Abraham Kahlil Mitra Jason Bacayo

AFP chief sees need for new laws to keep troops off elections

GUDANI

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga on Saturday said Philippine Military Academy cadets have assisted him that there would be high, in the aftermath of recent martial charges filed against two former officials of the academy.

But some military officials said the testimonies of retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, former PMA assistant superintendent, and Col. Melander Baltan, former assistant commandant of cadets, about cheating during the 2004 presidential elections in Mindanao, means that new laws must be crafted to exclude the demand Forces of the Philippines from all "nonmilitary" and elections-related duties.

A Senate committee looking into alleged wiretapped conversations between Presidential Mrs. Arroyo and an election official in Mindanao, insists

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Joe Rondayert
Bureau Chief Wina A. Bocalbalos

A never ending story of evacuation

By Rolando Pitoy
Davao City

THE ATA-MANOBO IN THE HINTERLANDS OF TALAINGOD, Davao del Norte know that because of the Oct. 2 encounter between the military and New People's Army (NPA) rebels, they have to leave their villages to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Based on experience, the ancestral land dwellers have been pioneering in the constant threat from business interests.

And it happened. Two days after the clash, they faced questions from high powered strangers. This signaled the exodus of the Ata-Manobo to low-lying villages as soldiers from the Integrated Special Operations Team of the 73rd Infantry Battalion started conducting anti-insurgency operations in their areas.

Since the start of the military operations, more than 500 Ata-Manobo from 17 communities have sought refuge with relatives in other villages or hid in the forests and the bazar. During the evacuation, a 4-month-old child died.

One of those displaced is Lavare Andel, 21, his wife and two sons. Eleven years ago, Andel's community in Barangay Buaklalan was corrupted by soldiers. They robbed the folk and fled in the forest to evade military checkpoints and logging guards.

It started when the Ata-Manobo tribe opposed the Industrial Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) that the government entered into with the Alcantara and Sons Inc. (Alsons). The enforcement of the IFMA allegedly resulted to harassment and abuses by the military.

When the Alsons tree plantation started damaging crops and killing farm livestock, the Ata-Manobo were forced to evacuate to Davao City in August of 1990 to protest what they called "military aided land grabbing scheme of the company."

Their month-long struggle has led to the demarcation of their ancestral lands from the Alsons plantation.

Because of this victory, Talaingod became famous for its brave inhabitants, the Ata-Manobo tribe and the members of Sabuguigan Ta Tinas (phenogon Lumad Unity in Defense of Ancestral Domain) who fought, won and continued their struggle for their territory.

Hydro power project

But development has started to encroach on their domain again.

This time, they believe the soldiers entered Talaingod because of the P720 million hydro power plant proposed by the Hydro Energy Corp. to be implemented by the Department of Energy and officials as well as various stakeholders from the municipality. The mini-hydro power plant is expected to supply electricity to five towns in Davao del Norte.

The Japan Bank for Overseas Cooperation through the Development Bank of the Philippines is financing the project. The company has an application for an environmental compliance certificate before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sabuguigan spokesperson Bayle Bantilan said they came to Davao City to "express the fear of the Lumad and to ask support [from] the people in the city."

This was similar to the appeal they made in 1994. That year, the Davao City government facilitated the return of the tribe to their homes.

Lt. Col. Rolando Bautista of the 73rd IB on Sept. 26 said there was no militarization in Talaingod and that their presence was merely to secure the area and act as facilitators for peace and development."

The Sabuguigan members are also calling for respect to the agreement that was forged in 1994, which set a boundary beyond which government soldiers cannot go.

The boundary is where Sangkiyang Sinding, a Sabuguigan member who was shot to death by the military, was buried. Alsons then offered to exhumate his death but his mother insisted it. She, however, insisted that the military should not go beyond the grave. Thus, it has become the basis of the agreement.

The Sabuguigan members vowed not to return to Talaingod until they obtain the same victory they achieved in 1994.

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METRO
Editor Ester G. Diposujol

Malabon Pula: The band plays on

By Nancy C. Carvajal

OTHER MARCHING BANDS MIGHT have quietly disappeared but the century-old Malabon Pula plays on, doing the rare turn for major events and parroting the solemn music in funerals, according to the municipal's 10 bandas, Chunbe Ayuyang.

"The band had kept up with the times," according to cousins Edison and Jaime Agtang, fourth generation members of the group set up in the 19th century.

The cousins, who acted as managers of the musical group, said only the name of the band and some instruments that were preserved and restored were old.

Gummy-old drums and reams for "war" efforts were stored in their modern undies that also served as their office in Barangay Tanong. Instruments were done there.

In the early days, when fiestas were big events, marching bands like Malabon Pula were regular features of the celebrations.

So there was considered success had evidence the majorettes leading a number of musicians carrying drums, trumpets, saxophones and huge instruments going around town.

A regular at fiesta

Malabon Pula remains a regular feature of the city's annual fiesta day with all the celebrations.

The agtangs said they were a marching band for fiestas and festivals but had updated their repertoire, depending on the specifications of the clients.

In their line of business, they said they had to keep almost of the audience's taste in movies.

A marching band is usually composed of not less than 30 musicians who play symbols, drums, clarinets, flute, piccolo, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, bass and other instruments.

Bandmen, for a group of 30 musicians cost around P100,000 at present, the Agtangs said.

The current Malabon Pula band, the cousins said, had won in several local band competitions, an indication that they were worthy inheritors of a great legacy.

Musicians four years ago the band won the grand slam winner in a local band in Navotas," one of the cousins said.

The cousins feel an obligation to keep the band playing the way their fathers and their fathers before them had worked to keep the music group alive.

"Our fathers' band is not only a legacy of their love for music, but it helped send our generation to school," the pair said. The cousins' fathers were conductor and music arranger of the band.

Members of the band, the cousins said, eventually moved on to bigger and more prestigious groups like the Presidential Band, the Philippine Army Band and the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

Edison's father, Mariculas, was featured in a 1952 article in Sunday Times as the first bandsite of the Manila Symphony Orchestra.

"[The band's] honour is passing generation to role for the present generation but also for older members," the agtangs said.

Most of them, according to the agtangs, enrolled in college courses, or scholarships, becoming members of the bands of their respective schools.

Though they acknowledged that being a musician required discipline and sacrifice, the cousins stressed that "it was worth it."

No one in the current band has moved on to a bigger group. Most of them have remained with Malabon Pula. Next, some of their children have joined the band to make a living.

Celestino Real Cruz, who lived in the city when he was younger, said, "Malabon Pula was the most popular group when I was growing up."

Cruz could still remember the band's distinctive uniform ...a flame red ensemble with gold trimming.

"There were times Cruz isn't from bands there that played the same music. So the only difference I could remember was the uniform," Cruz added.

According to Sonderica, the 82 year-old wife of the third generation member of the band—Alexander Agtang—the continued existence of the band signified the present generation's understanding of the country's history and culture.

Sonderica said she actually played the clarinet for the first group, Malabon Pula, starting at age 13. She stopped when she married the leader of Malabon Pula.

The band [Malabon Pula], Sonderica said "symbolizes the spirit, courage and patriotism of the generation before us."

Sonderica added that the group was initially called Banda de Tanong when it was treated some time in the late 1800s.

"But it had to be changed because of the creation of another band called "Malabon Pula," she said.

According to her, the silver band was called "Pula" because it had silver-colored instruments.

"In childhood [the members of the group], the band that used gold-colored instruments was called Banda Ginto Pula," she explained.

Malabon Pula, she said, distinguished itself many years ago for reasons she did not know.

As for the current band's repertoire, music had not changed a lot, including those played in marching bands, the Agtangs said. The classic remained the same except for some modifications to suit the audience's taste," they said.

Songs like "Otso-otso" and "Ipagpatuloy" could be played along fiestas and other classical events.

At present, there are seven bands in the city including the Malabon Zoo which the Agtangs call a "breakaway group."

Bookings, they said, especially this year had been low, but they had to keep the band going.

"I started when I was 11 and my fee was P35 per performance," Edison said.

He plays the drums and has worked abroad as a musician.

He said 20 of the 30 members of the current band were related.

"We had to confine membership to members of the band's. Besides, most of us enjoy playing in the band," Edison said.

He added that relatives joined in the band "they enjoyed the feeling of belonging."

MEMBERS of one of the earlier generations of the Malabon band pose in front of Malacañang in this old photo.

THE NEW breed of players of the Malabon Pula Band during practice. Standing, from left, are Alexander de la Cruz, Albert de la Cruz, Christopher Matias and Freddie de la Torre. Seated, from left, are Froilan dela Torre, Jonathan Cruz and Andronem de la Cruz.

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Empire King resumes stakes race campaign

By Edsie Villanueva, Contributor

JOHN CONRAD GUIDED EMPIRE KING FOR THE FIRST TIME TWO WEEKS AGO AND got acquainted well with the handsome colt.

That was during a Class Division race where Empire King simply cleared off the rival brought almost by four months of inactivity.

Today, the son of Perfect Halo resumes his campaign as a 3-year-old and his first big test in the Gil Kg of the Sta. Santa Cup at the Santa Ana Park.

"Gagawin ko lahat ang makakaya ko kasi pawis pero ang sabagat ko ZTE do my best ko. Gusto I'm telling a champion horse," said Cordova, the fourth jockey tapped in recent last year's Presidential Gold Cup debut and Triple Crown two-leg winner.

Defending with Empire King in the 1,600-meter race is a tough crowd made up of figured Admiral and reports Jospeh Ofier and Hot Noodles.

Empire King, was rated following a third place finish in the Gran Copa de Manila (Oct 1) last June and returned to the track for a win at Fun Inn Oct. 9 during which Cordova favorite the latest partner of the champion gallop- ers which was ridden previously by Ashley Lu diana, Antonio Abesalt Jr. and Joe Dilema.

Warm up for this afternoon's assignment, Empire King worked out over 1,400 clocked work and did 1:46.1, ninth still plenty in reserve.

Speed advantage, the fastest clock of Real Spicy in the 3-year-old division this year, and Second Offer could emerge as Empire King's fiercest rivals in the race that likewise serves as the fifth leg of the Santa Ana Park Championship finales.

After losing to Real Spicy in their last meeting, Speed Advantage won Gen Class Division race, while Fernando Raquel Jr. maneuverly outlasted Empire King in the Grand Derby last week.

The Dilema brothers, Pet and Val, will mount Second Offer and Hot Noodles, respectively.

Backed by the Philtrusted and Philippine Racing Club, the Sta. Lucia Cup rewards P500,000 to the first placer.

Jinggoy Yeon Lazard trained back veteran local gallopers Lyconsa to capture last year's 6th edition.

History repeating itself

I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN.

I refer to the resounding symposium of PBA fans, attended by none, when Asia's first play-for-pay league opened a rookie batch.

The opening day itself had a sullen crowd. The long wait had the fans marveling for the league's return. So, when the doors were back, the fans came in droves.

To the delight of league officials and, of course, Commissioner Sala himself, the momentum lasted.

It helped that Asians in the bleachers and partisans of the upper box were out to set amazing five pesos.

I say this is impossible, if not cute.

In these times when vehicle window shades are the only fatigue left are not getting lowered every day it's much settled to see PBA tickets clocked to an unimaginable incentives of the bucks.

My answer, purpose and buy have pegged at a minimum P1,369. That's P1,56 more than the PBA's general admission ticket price.

Say what you need to do it, it is simply unthinkable that ticket prices have gone that low.

Either our standard of living has hit rock bottom or Commissioner Sala has this financial iron fists for our PBA fans that he is more than willing to sacrifice earnings for the show-pleasure of PBA aficionados.

Whatever, here's a plum to Commissioner Sala and our PBA governors. Generally they deserve our applause for their unselfish, devoted show of even compromising the cost of a journey seat if only to prove that league owners always put premium on the financial standing of PBA fans.

Then, it is no longer unusual to see a PBA fan/avenger taking a peephole for better of the time near the Big Dome, Ynares Center or Cuneta Astrodome. Shelling out five bucks for a PBA ticket@, one can happily realize a saving of P2.50. Those days, every penny matters.

Five saves cashier money, and you even do your break a favor when you attend the PBA games live: a walk from Cubao to your place of residence, say in Cubao or Marikina, in Barona Rizal, or New York along Edsa, is good for the heart.

But one reason, too, why the fans are back to Asia Agusino, the famed arenas.

Stars of TV and the other screen like Sen Aquino are automatic magnets. They attract people that's why early time fire watchers last heard used Lhaleo Trip of Palo- herald play fire, expect droves of fans rooting to the arena of battle.

As if announcement, the majority of our PBA fans are followers of colloided stars. The PBA to show for, in case you're forgotten.

Didn't Leo Prieto, the league's founding commissioner say it himself?

"The PBA is entertainment," dext Leo said 28 years ago.

Time rang true in 1975. That still rings true today.

Back in the olden days when a battle of boxy one five bucks, movie stars had also graced PBA games.

Amy Co, the Criaja star, Saul Mona Aurgo, a sexpot herself in the 70s.

Rudy Fernandez, Rico Co's frontliners, had Elizabeth Oropesa, the satisfying beauty from Bicol.

Ritchie Pinoy, one of the most powerful rumors San Miguel Beer boxcrew had, married Daisy Reformador, the raven sweetheart of the Garden.

And Flores Formula, the prolific fisherman with his own unique version of pitocurin shots, had always Rosemarie Gil in one in the Pilot of the Governor.

Movie personalities have this built-in appeal that they can really do a lot of good in any show, especially when they stretch to be enlisted for a period of time. Like the PBA.

Should Commissioner Sala, or the PBA board maybe, would consider providing special seats for them in any game of the year, I'd consider that as not a bad idea.

Even Jaworski did it in those old TV shot special reaction from viewers as they add dimension to their presence in the series.

I'm glad that the league's latest show his appeal is back.

And, of course, for all the more gladdened when Glenda d'Rosario is chronically out takes prime dose. What closer proof of the league's care and concern for its fans than that?

I rate a plum to humility.

* * *

E-mail: manjo@philstar.net

Espiritu Cup to benefit students

FINISH TIME WILL BE CONSIDERED DECISIVE in staging of the first Ambassador Eduardo R. Espiritu Golf Cup on Nov. 14 at the Manila Golf Club will finance the scholarships of poor but deserving students of the University of the Philippines, according to the organizing Quezon Rotary Phi through its Epsilon Foundation Inc.

Golfing executives and officials of the country's top private and government corporations and the regular players of the 22-year-old Quezonian society are expected to see action in the event, featuring the Imam Banner inventory and current Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland.

For details, contact Michael L. Monsenay, or, chair of the executive committee, at 0920-964 9123 and 887-7900/887-9229 or email at monsenay@singlelink.net.

ARCHERS ME CHAMPS. LSGH High School won the overall team championship, the high school team championship and high school division championship in the recent 5th Samsung International Athletics at Valley Golf in Antipolo. The team is composed of (first from left) team captain and HS division champion Marvin Olivo, overall individual champion Mike Yee, Alec Guy, Carlo Fenarier and Mervie Mendoza. LSGH Grade School 1 of team captain Fiona Marquez, 1st runner-up Migay Yee, 2nd runner-up Ally Ramos, JP de Claro and Gary Salcedo also won their division. Team Manager is Raymund Rondello. (2nd from left) representing Silverio Batch '71 and coach Ernil Riddle.

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Sunday Features Editor Margie Quiroz-Espino

'Always think somebody is better, so you try harder'

By Margie Quiroz-Espino

THE FIRST JOB INTERVIEW with Avon Philippines' top executive initially turned out to be a conversation among mothers on raising children.

Avon Trained Manager Ilse Quiogue has one child—nine-year-old Lorenzo who is among the bright kids at the Ateneo de Manila University grade school. In earlier interviews with husband Markus took an almost similar path when he talked a lot about Lorenzo.

Ilse may have still people under her in the Philippines and about half a million more ladies but at the end of the day motherhood is the same takeaway you see—you worry about your child's studies, his extra-curricular activities, his resilience ...

The difference between Lorenzo and the rest is that she was once an only child. She is the third of five. And being the middle child did not give her the complete—perhaps this was because she had a smart father.

Her dad made all the children believe he or she was his favorite. And she would was a successful brand which included sister Grace Gutierrez, president of Johnson and Johnson Philippines.

But Ilse adds her mother just focused on the two eldest children—making sweaters for them when they had to take tests. But when the youngest children were in exams, her mother became busy with work and no longer was as strict.

But perhaps leadership by example prevailed and Ilse and the rest of the Del Rosario kids followed their overachiever siblings.

Ilse says one of her vivid memories during college was calling up her father because she failed a math exam. She says she kept crying over the phone.

"My father told me even if I failed in chemistry matter. That there is no problem that cannot be solved," Ilse recalls.

And she delivers the same message to her son who is very competitive.

Asked was no problem and when she reached college she enrolled in Economics. But Ilse found he course too boring and could not stand the thought of spending four years learning curves of supply and demand.

At the start of her freshman year at the University of the Philippines, she had struck a friendship with former Sen. Loren Legarda who was pursuing a degree in Broadcast Communication.

Listening to her friend lament about her dreaded course, Loren invited Ilse to transfer to the business of Mass Communication from College of Mass Communication. Ilse followed her friend's advice and found the course.

She says what she liked about the college was that the people were down to earth.

"You see people going to school in slippers and riding jeeps. There was no intimidation being brought in a Benz. But when they get to school no one tells Mr. So is more important than the other. And they were so much fun to work with."

Graduation came soon enough and for P1,200 a month Ilse worked as an account executive at Pacific, then owned by Tony Tuviera.

"The salary was small—it was just enough to pay for my gas, repairs and maintenance of my car," she says.

But she has such a relatable honor in the agency—"It helped me understand how difficult it is to be an AE. In most advertising agencies come to me I try to be as clear and as human as possible." After a couple of years she once more joined friend Loren in another ad agency.

But she got pirated by Jardine-Fleming, the predecessor of ING (ready to retire) shelter in the country. Branch of Jardine then were Jamie, Amic Hicks, Made in Heaven.

Ilse recalls Jardine was among the first companies to get an endorser and they chose Gretchen Barretto for Made in Heaven.

The first was very successful.

"It was a marketing services story. We made the client the place to be—serving cookies and drinks. We got the mailing list of villages and mailed them our catalogs," describes Ilse who was Jardine's advertising and promotions manager.

But Jardine's success was short-lived. Most of its people left or were pirated. Ilse was one of them.

One day in 1988, Ilse got two job offers—in the morning she got a call from Citytrust, then the consumer banking arm of Citibank (which was later bought by Bank of Philippine Islands) and in the afternoon from from Philippines.

"There's was no significance in the package offered but I was more interested in Citibank," she says.

Perhaps it was said she stayed. And reached the top.

From brand manager she became group category manager. Then marketing manager of Avon Philippines in 1994. By 1996, she was marketing director/regional VP for marketing of three Asia Pacific and last year, was made the head of them Philippines.

Ilse admits there are challenging because of the current economic state of the country. But she works hard, always thinking of the 800people under her.

ILSE QUIOGUE has bonded with Avon for 17 years because something new always came along.

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Chinatown goes to Davao

By Geronimo Lucero
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—OVER 100 YEARS after the first known Chinese migrant Lim Chuan Jun found his way to this city, the Davao-Filipino community is finally setting up a Chinatown here.

It will rise from a 42.3 hectare South Asia Pacific where over 500 families of Chinese-Filipino live and do business, says Davao businessman William Go, president of the Chinese Filipino group Davao Kuma mo-sood.

"This is an area bustling with activities by day but a virtual ghost town at night," says Go, whose father Go Hong Tong left China on net foot in Cebu before the war, and later on opened a buy-and-sell business and settled in Davao.

"We plan to put up night markets and hold the major Chinese festivals here, so that the whole area bustles with life even after dark," says archipelagic carpenter Roman Eugene Do of the Davao Chinatown Development Council.

The Davao Chinatown will be the country's second Chinatown to rise after Binondo in Manila.

It will have a Chinese museum, Chinese restaurants, and two entrance gates—one at the area where Chinese temples stand, says Edgar Te, who worked with businessman Amado Sy in laying the groundwork of the plan.

Sebastian Anghongin, former chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council, said he is also sure they are developing the place into a manufacturing point of cheap electronics goods from China and other areas of the East Asian Growth Area—composed of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

But unlike those similar enclaves that used to signify the world's earliest Chinatowns, the Davao Chinatown will showcase how Chinese culture blended with everything in Davao, says Anghongin.

Tour guide welcome arches (pailang in Mandarin) which come to symbolize most Chinatowns around the world—will soon be put up at both ends of the 42.3 hectare South Asia Pacific Davao Area, bordering the whole Chinatown zone.

They will adopt traditional Chinese designs but with the look and symbols of Davao, says Anghongin, whose father left China to set sail to the islands across the South Seas (Nanyang), referring to the Philippines, and eventually opened the first furry tuazo in Davao.

"Indigenous fruits like durian and pomelo or bird species like the Philippine Eagle will be incorporated in the Chinese design to tell travelers they are in Davao," says Anghongin.

The four gates—which will cost around P2.5 million to P3 million each—will stand for peace, hope, unity and friendship, says Te, who heads the architectural group designing the project.

Two of the gates/arches will be set up at the opposite ends of the old Quiapo-area street, a street lined up with shops owned by Chinese merchants selling goldenrice rice and spare parts and cheap textiles.

This old street was named after Basque trader Don Jose Ortiz-guerra of Guipuzcoa, Spain who later became Davao's first governor-general.

But in 1960, to erase most of the colonial regime, the Davao City Council changed its name to Ramon Magsaysay.

The new street name however failed to catch the people's fancy, because up to this day, the street continued to be called Ortiz-guerra.

As a boy growing up in the 60s, Go says the name Quiapo-area evokes the images of wooden houses with ripple shelf windows lining the streets. The earliest street of Monteverde—where calesas used to ply—stretches all the way to the pier, known today as the Santa Ana wharf.

Another part of section will be installed at both ends of Santa Ana Avenue, which runs across the old Hospicio district along C.M. Recto, and passes by the Chinese Davao General School, where young Davao Chinese-Filipinos first learn their letters.

Go realized only lately what language can do to connect a new generation of Chinese-Filipinos to their family in China. He further died in 1960, but his scent returned here from China in 1980.

He thought they could not understand each other and was only surprised to hear the same Hokkien tongues that the grew up with a speakers as well by most Chinese here.

"He speak the vernacular Hokkien Amoy although the guoling (national language) of China is Mandarin," Go says. Now, his aunt has visited Davao numerous times.

Aside from the four arches, the Davao Chinese community is setting up road signs and billboards with Chinese characters. Red lanterns will adorn streetlights and lamp posts will light up the whole area at night.

But for Te, it was not that easy convincing the elders of the Davao Chinese community to open up to the idea of a Davao Chinatown.

"It took about four years of hard work by businessman Amado Sy before the Chinese elders here finally opened up to it," he says.

Sena, who chairs the City Council committee on tourism, endorsed the ordinance creating the Davao Chinatown, and creation setting up the Davao Chinatown Development Council, composed of government and private representatives, to develop the whole area into a world class tourist destination.

As a result, the Davao Chinatown project has spurred revival of interest in Chinese culture, says Go.

He says they have started learning family names in Hokkien since the first Chinese migrant to Davao.

But at present, they can trace only as far back as Lim Chuan Jun, mentioned by Angelito Lledo in his book "Yang-ranon sa Dobao" (Once upon a time in Davao) as have arrived in Davao in 1859.

"We're still digging up the archives," says Go. "So far, we can only trace as far back as the fourth generation."

Anghongin is confident it can be done. "Please tell people, they were very wise," he says. "They left traces. When a Spanish ruler in 1904 made them change their names, they adopted the whole name, not just Sebastian or Antonio but Ortiz Ibarra. They adopted totally new names because they wanted to vanish without a trace but my father, he adopted his whole name Anghongin, as if to tell the same generation what happened to them."

According to Lledo's account, the old Lim Chuan Jun later adopted the name of Francisco Villa Abrille, after the Spanish Governor General of Davao Francisco Villa Abrille.

Go says they are lining up at least five major Chinese festivals every year to celebrate here.

These include the Chinese lunar New Year, the Ching Ming or Spring Festival, the dragon festival to accompany the moon festival in autumn, the moon festival, and the Chung Yung festival in honor of the ancestral graves.

But with the existing fireworkers' ban in Davao, they are using gongs to sound the festivities, and they are running up with colorful lanterns.

Go says he is also looking forward to the Davao Chinatown to become a tourist destination, and a place where Chinese-Filipinos can trace their roots.

"We will be the set at helping the world our home". He says as the foundation "being mankind" and the overused "exceeding customer expectations."

Author wants business leaders to aspire for greatness and to inspire their people to become dreamers. He says that theorist Martin Luther King Jr. didn't only thousands of people in the cause of civil rights) with his "I Have a Strategic Plan" speech, but has inspired a nation with his "I have a Dream" message.

"Greatness attracts greatness," he says, adding that "people want to be identified with a great company. So, back to Level2 driver, he gets greatness by setting a high goal statement: "Giving the gift of sight to those who have the least and need us the most." Try something similar.

The "category of one" firm belongs to the group, he says. So, Callaway advises firms to make a self-assessment and candidly answer this question: "Are you a good guy or a bad guy."

Finally, the author says, "people are the great differentiator" and that will make you a "category of one" company. Greatness exists, first of all, on the leader who aspires for greatness and who inspires among his people devotion to higher ideals.

It is difficult to be a "category of one" company? Callaway talks about it as if it is easy. But when "talk" comes to "walk"—that's where the difficulty lies. And that's where the extraordinary companies are set apart from the merely mediocre. So, let's go do it! (dioscoronasco@yahoo.com)

Pink with Globe Girltrends for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, happening today in Makati. Avon is the largest corporate supporter of the breast cancer cause. Through its Kay Goodbye to Breast Cancer campaign, it gained the way for the PGH Breast Center.

Always think ...

Turn to page 8

for the challenge came when Phayza, then a partner of Avon, was brought by Sara Lee. Phayza or the famous apparel business which also owns selling Avon was closing down to the total down business in the Philippines.

Avon was then given just six months before Phayza pulled out. Her job was to set up a completely new line of intimate apparel. In one point, the regional office already told them that they did not have to meet the deadline as it was impossible. But his and her team stuck to it and somehow they were able to come up with a line.

They were able to come up with their own intimate apparel line and sales did not suffer.

To this day, his only has one motto which has helped make her come out ahead. And she wants her employees to learn her son Lorenzo has a similar mindset even without her telling him about it: "Always think somebody is better, so you try harder."

WITH ANDRÉS Jung, head of Avon Worldwide

THE GOAL is to create a place that showcases how Chinese culture blended with everything in Davao.

WITH SIGNS like this, one knows he is in Chinatown.

FOUR GRAND welcome arches (pailang in Mandarin)—which symbolize most Chinatowns around the world—will soon be put up at both ends of the old streets of Quiapo-area and Santa Ana.

How far are you willing to go to be a unique firm?

By Gavin M. Velasco
Contributor

"Becoming a Category of One"
By Jim Collaway
John Wiley & Sons Inc., 2005

MORE CAUGHT IN A VICIOUS (really trap) is the one thing being avoided by many companies.

And yet, more and more products and services or many companies seemed to being "commoditized," rather than being "differentiated." For example they end up being "indistinguishable products in a crowd."

"The marketplace has become 'commoditized'. Companies are pretty everywhere. They look at you or me or any other business out there and they believe that they can get pretty much the same thing, just as good, for a little less or a little price from the competition."

Thus says Jim Collaway, author of "Becoming a Category of One," which is published. "How Extraordinary Companies Transcend Commodity and Defy Competition."

I got hold of excerpts from this book in a conference of TE, Spain-owned million dollar Fiama Group of Companies which sought—and successfully so—to be different from their competitors and money-minded operations in the United States and elsewhere around the world. And then I finally got a copy via Amazon.com.

Collaway deals hospitably with the "category of one" firm. Chapter 4 of this book, and in some eight other chapters to the concept and style that make you a "category of one" company.

The book also says it all. So a company, you are unique in your own category—and thus transcend competition. Of course, that is easier said than done. Hell, all author Collaway walks you through the things you have to do to be one unique, competition-free (almost) company.

Collaway asks you to have the resolve to take the first step. Indeed, a decision to change the familiar way of doing business. "What's your tolerance for chaos?"

And I recall what Alfred Booth Whitehead said: "Progress is the art of creating change in the midst of order, and of preserving order in the midst of chaos."

"Where you say that your tolerance is to be to the business or to achieve your excellence or to take your business to the next level, are you resigned to the status quo or just kidding yourself?" In this well-written book, you get crisp-and-urgent passages that summarize every Collaway thought—like: "We mean it. Let's go."

The author/advisor drawing upon his experience in helping companies change their familiar way of doing business: "Better be honestly mediocre and try to stay where you are with a sense of contentment than be unrealistically ambitious about what is yet to be and never get there because you never really wanted go to the first place."

How many firms have elaborately conceived slogans in the planning sessions that soon become clichés because elements never new action?

Collaway doesn't discourage us from celebrating our past victories, but issues a warning that value

EXECUTIVE READ

exceeded in the past may not work at present or in the future. He has a keynote advice: What got you there won't seldom keep you there (much less make you to the next level)." Elsewhere in the book, the author gives another one-liner: "Past success can be, and usually is, the enemy of future success."

He points out that rapid changes are going within and around us. "Everything you've learned about business is about to change," he says, that "we have the rulesrules of state drinking out of everyone's minds." He quotes Mike Burnett, president of North American Consumer Products of Georgia Pacific, who said: "Challenge old ideas, provoke thought and invite innovation."

Throughout the book, the author speaks highly of the power of "bringing everyone on board" about your company, vision, profiling of the same time, and he sees in following the leadership.

So, he suggests the "use of powerful language." As explains, "If you have strong feelings about your company, your people, your customers and your work, then use strong language." He takes to task many mission statements that are without blood, without fire and without soul.

Collaway cites the vision of LensCrafters, which was stated simply but mightily (has to ways to make the frustrations more to says Go.

For the first time last month, the Davao Chinatown celebrated the moon festival, a Chinese festival at the time of the year when the moon is at its fullest and the Chinese share mooncakes.

In ancient China, during the rule of the Mongolians from the north, Anghongin says, the people overthrew the oppressive regime by baking a moon cake so large, it concealed their weapons. They launched their attack at 12 midnight when the moon was at its brightest and most.

Now that Chinese families are scattered around the world, the moon festival has assumed new meaning.

For the Chinese, it is the time for remembering one's family and to hold family reunions.

"For big families like us, living in different parts of the world, one only has to look at the moon to be reminded of home," says Anghongin.

Planting seeds of hope in a cooking school

EARLY IN THE '70s, A GROUP OF women headed the call of a charismatic Filipino friar bent on family fellowship and God "in deeds, not sweet words".

Knowing that education is one of the most potent tools to empower the poor, the ladies set out to organize Pushcart Inc.

From its first home in a garage in New Manila, Pushcart is now a non-profit vocational training school for underprivileged young women under the Foundation for Professional Training Inc. (FPTI).

The well-managed institution on M. Dayrit St. in San Juan is accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Department of Tourism.

According to Leo Flimer, Executive Director and CEO of the school, Pushcart opens its doors to deserving young women who have the desire to study but do not have the financial means to do so.

The institution supports them by offering quality education based on Christian ideals for skills/livelihood and general employment in the hope that as empowered, productive members of society, they can work for a brighter future for themselves and their families.

This is accomplished through a two 26-month diploma course for those who wish to pursue a career in the hotel and restaurant industry.

The course offers the Dual Training Scholarship Program, which allows students to alternate theory training and on-the-job training in a partner hotel or restaurant establishment.

Unlike the grim reality that underprivileged labor have to face every day, inside Pushcart is a haven where they can let their dreams grow...more than 500 graduates have found employment in some of the country's most prestigious hotels and restaurants working as kitchen, food, beverage and pastry attendants, and even control clerks.

To underline the quality of the school system, Pushcart accepts high school graduates (not beyond second year college) with an average grade of 86 percent.

School officials conduct written, oral and medical exams to make sure that the scholarships are given to the most deserving candidates. Around 10-16 scholars are accepted every year.

Pushcart is different because it provides unique benefits to poor young women who qualify for the scholarship: it offers free tuition for two years, P600 monthly stipend starting on the seventh month of the program, on-the-job placement in a prestigious hotel or restaurant and immediate employment upon graduation.

But beyond the professional training, Flimer says the institution puts a premium on spiritual formation through one-on-one mentoring where individual needs and circumstances are tackled and worked out. Values such as the dignity of work and spirit of service are inculcated in the students which are very much appreciated by their on-the-job training and employment mentors.

Another of Pushcart's (unique) considerable projects is the Home Skills Training Program for household helpers. Participants are taught kitchen and home management, as well as conversational English and values education. So if a student or household members can recall their home helps in the program, consider that after training is completed, the home can be left in good hands.

READ huge and wraps found the school's vision/mission of "helping young women with limited financial support to develop their potential of pursuing a career in culinary" very appealing and challenging. With this in mind, Glad tried to implement with Pushcart School last July 2005. Glad provides free kitchen products like Glad cling wraps, bake paper and zipper sandwich/freezer bags for the school's training program. The partnership is currently underway but leading and guiding through series of product demos tied up with different kitchen and home management tips.

Being a Swiss institution, Pushcart School is in need of help in their quest for financial resources for the continuation of their program and to be able to reach out to more student beneficiaries if possible. Those who would like to help can sponsor a scholar (P2,000/per scholar per month = P24,000 per year or P48,000 for two years), donate supplies or whatever you can. For details, please call 727-1981 to 83.

Despite financial struggles, Pushcart School believes that there is a way beyond merely surviving. The resolute school and its hope-filled students continue to dedicate their help of grass-roots souls.

PHOTO for Pushcart School Handbook: Many are poor and remain poor because they do not have access to education, neither to the higher echelons. Poverty is hard on men and, in many ways, harder on women. Culinary arts expert Jessie Ungui (suitcase apron) helps deserving women by equipping them with a skill.

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Learn to make soap

IN LINE WITH THE TRI GOVERNMENT'S project to give jobs and business for those who would like to venture into the soap making business, the Cooking Trainers' Skills and Development Program (CTSDP) will conduct a one day seminar on "Soap-Making" to be held at UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Ave., cor. Visayas St., University of the Philippines, Diliman, Q.C., on Oct. 29, 2005 (Saturday) from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The topics to be discussed are: Theories and principles of Soap Making, Sourcing of materials, Costing and Pricing on different kinds of soap.

Also there will be a hands-on experience on making of different kinds of soap such as: Liquid Dishwashing soap, Liquid Hand soap, Liquid All purpose soap, Bar detergent soap (All purpose) Powder soap (all purpose), Herbal Bath soap (papaya,kalamansi,oatmeal,etc.) Fabric softener, Liquid Bleach, added feature of the seminar is a free lecture on smart entrepreneurship (how to start and manage your own soap business)

Participants will receive a certificate of training. Lunch and meals will be provided and free handouts on soap-making will be given.

Interested parties may call 932-49-20; 426-78-26; 921-29-34; 913-60-51 and 911-29-86.

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Big business seen with new IT player

THREE CALL CENTER FIRMS, including a Fortune 500 company, are set to operate in the PEZA CERTEA Pavilion in Cansilmil Uptown Mandaluyong City this year.

Echo Central is poised to take a huge chunk of the Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) and Information Technology markets in terms of providing office space earlier, the development and build-to-suit structure in its Shaylflower Complex.

JC Mall subsidiary SHOP Inc., a publicly listed US company recently entered agreements at the Echo Central Pavilion. The firm is a technology provider that markets services to IT brands to individuals, small to medium-sized corporations, or anyone with an interest in putting up e-business and tools to be technology enabled, according to details. Co, Greenfield Inc's Corp. VP/Co business development said Sterling.

Two tenants—one of the largest contact center outsourcers in the US market and a Fortune 500 global computer firm—will be housed in the Pavilion before year-end. Co denies the company company's initial plan a broken up in three phases: 400-500 seats for the fourth quarter of 2005; 400-600 in the second phase; 800-1,000 seats in the third implementary phase. Ilo Co Generals move to be on IT hub does not downplay its retail advantage but is a way to becoming a center where people and business converge.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2006

Edna Chelo Banal-Formoso

SHAKERS OF THE WORLD: Brands prime runner Virgie Ramos (center in light green), I Can Serve founding president Kori Ablaza and HSBC CEO Wynnie Pijuan with celebrities Rachel Alejandro, Sammie Cruz, Agot Isidro, Nina Samson, Marlene Bottinelli, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Joyce Oreña and Mikee Cojuangco

Shakin' and stirrin' against the Big C

THE FIRST MAJOR fundraiser dubbed "Shake the World" sponsored by global brands Avaach and HSBC for the Philippine advocacy group on cancer, I Can Serve, was recently held at the Peoples' Palace in Greenbelt 2.

It was an invitation to "step out, stand up, and shake the world." And one way to live up to the challenge was to make a difference in the lives of women in the Philippines, which has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia.

Cancer survivor and broadcast journalist Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, founding president of I Can Serve, begged everyone to include breast cancer in their list of advocacies. The foundation seeks to empower women with information and hope.

"Filipina survivors and their children need our friends who will stand their brothers when they grow up," said Kara. "And even when

OH HAPPY DAY! for I Can Serve member Carla Penas Bluemarina is surrounded by Swatch trunk models.

BREAST-CANCER survivors and supporters family members and friends with Dr. Tayyeb Pascual (third from right), Milipala and Lola Tinio.

ORIGINAL Pink

PINK is the official color for breast-cancer awareness. Models is wearing Original Pink Swatch.

SWATCH declares it's time to step out, stand up and shake the world.

Shakin' and stirrin' against the Big C

HSBC CEO Warner Manning pledges his support to the I Can Serve Foundation.

MAGSANOC-ALIKPALA, Prisco-Valdez and Chico Angeles with People' Palace crew

MEN SUPPORT breast-cancer awareness, too. HSBC's Martin Cook, Price Town's Dennis Valdez and GH Gen's Miguel Ramos.

THE SIDE Charm Swatchis exclusively for HSBC credit-card holders.

GUERCELLI and Ala Paredes

DOTTY Dots

FAMILY Portrait

SIDE Charm

TASTE of Pink

HAVETTE Bautista and Cecily Tan, Mariscal Ghetu Telecom and Lorna Santana of HSBC

SWATCH'S Jaime Lozano with HSBC Marketing's Marian Balagot and Mina Ortigas

A real-life 'Fatal Attraction'

DEAR EMILY,

I have a brother who is considered the black sheep of the family. He enrolled in college but never sat down in the classroom or read books. He went to a diploma mill, so we had a good idea how he passed his subjects.

He is tall and good-looking, though. He got a girl pregnant and married early. He now works in a fast-food chain.

His problems started when a partner of the owner saw him. She is separated from her husband and has four kids. My brother is naturally friendly and he became friends with this woman.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Mercado

She started dining here home, bringing toys and food to the house of his in-laws where he lived with his wife and kids that they considered his goal-saver.

Before long, the woman would suddenly appear—in my mother's house, in our relative's house, in his in-law's house, at watching [illegible] where my brother went with his friends—and just about every place where my brother was.

She didn't have to take a course in rocket science to conclude that my brother was a loyal man. At first, he denied the relationship, of course, but admitted it later.

My brother bolted out of this woman's hold a month ago. He thought it'd be easy but she started haunting him night and day. She had been fired from the job.

He thought that was the end of her. But now, she follows him everywhere and calls at all hours of the day every cell phone, every land line of every relative, every friend, and, it seems, every human being my brother knows.

His wife, who has been showered with gifts by the woman, does not believe that any hanky-panky occurred. She has been phoning cool, classic and blind.

Recently, the woman turned violent. Jeering, screaming and pursuing him on the face. But after she hit him on the temple, he hit back. She immediately reported him to the police.

She vowed that their relationship would be "in the death." My brother is so afraid for his life and so are we. She is threatening and harassing not just my brother but everyone in our family.

Should we tell the woman's children and ex-husband about how she's destroying my brother's life? My brother is 34 and she is 32. I think the woman has snapped and needs help. What can we do?

FFF

Wow, what a wonderful plot for a movie. Let's make a suspense-filmstravaganza a "Fatal attraction" if I may say so myself.

Levity aside, the "fatal attraction" scenario is very real for many many people. This woman is, given all the signs you mentioned, sick... and needs help.

Your brother is clearly up to his neck in the emotional he has gotten himself into. What really shows that truth is frighteningly stranger than fiction. Their relationship must have ruptured very differently-and-then to have led to how they'll be together forever.

It's talking to her yourself. If big strong sons of yours or her siblings who care for your brother. If this doesn't work you may want to get the help of her immediate family.

Her children, for instance, should know. Her ex-[illegible] husband. If they don't already know it.

Her [illegible]-chilling threat "to the death" shouldn't be taken lightly. All her actions may prove to be unstoppable in the blink of an eye. It's time to break this story.

According to a lawyer, your brother should have protected himself by also filing a complaint with the police. He had his share of scratches and bruises, didn't he?

The watch of this woman married could be worse than a hurricane! Take this seriously.

E-mail the author at emercado@inquirer.com.ph, Dahlia Ujlangkit, or send your letters to Inquirer, Letter to Ate Marcado, 24-hour fax, privacy. "Kabibitan Ng Isang," 7-719-8.80 p.m., Monday to Friday, or dial 88 304-3 PM.

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Blessed Leon, former parish priest in Bohol and Romblon

BLESSED LEON IMOSATTI Y MOSquera, one of the "Eight Martyrs of Morell" killed during the Spanish Civil War in 1936, was a parish priest of Bohol and Romblon in the late 1880s. The eight priests, all Augustinian Recollects, were beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1990 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Bohoanos and people from Banton, Romblon, can now pray to him for his intercession. I have been praying to him since I came to know more about him from Hermina Juarez Garcia, member of Fr. Lorenzo Pedro of San Carlos Seminary and Fr. Raymond Pentis, SVD, who is now studying in Leonie, Belgium.

16 years as religious

Blessed Leon was born in 1859 in Aguaguas (Robosa) Espuela to Benito Imbernott and Juana Mosquera and died in Morell (Granada) in 1936 after 16 years of religious life. He studied at the College of Philosophy and Sciences at Monteagudo in Navarra. An Formation in theology took place in Millan de la Cogolla in Rioja. He attained the Lectorate in Marcilla, Navarra.

In 1884, he arrived in Leyte from Barcelona, sailing on the ship "Isla de Cuba" for a month. At the age of 25, Pedro Imbernott was ordained in Cebu in 1884 after learning Cebuano. He was an assistant parish priest in Barrio Leay 1885-1887. He was parish priest of Dimiao, Bohol, 1887-1890.

He first set foot in Banton, Romblon, when he visited the parish priest, Padre Inarcadio Maquelo. After a short vacation in Bohol, he returned to Iloilo-Bulloleo in Bohol. He had a short stint in the parish of Santa Barbara before becoming parish priest again in Dimiao.

Then he was transferred to Romblon where he was parish priest at Alcaptu, San Fernando, Sibuyan Island. He was parish priest in Banton, Romblon, 1894-1897.

This was his last parish in the Philippines before he was transferred to Rizal just before the Spanish-American War. Padre Imbernott was the last Augustinian Recollect parish priest in Banton, Romblon. After 16 years as parish priest in Rizal, he went home to Spain to serve in Morell (Granada).

During the Spanish Civil War in 1936, celebrating Mass was forbidden in churches and monasteries by the Republicans hateful because of their hatred of the Catholic Church. But Padre Imbernott and some other priests were not afraid. The Republican soldiers hunted the monasteries because of the disobedience of the priests and 7,000 died.

Padre Imbernott and seven other priests were killed by firing squad on a street in Morell.

After many years of studying the lives of the priests (martyrs) in Morell, researchers concluded they died as martyrs, defending their faith and for Jesus Christ. They are now called the "Eight Martyrs of Morell."

Those who want prayer cards can write to me at PO Box 2050. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Those who want to send testimonies of miracles through the intercession of Blessed Leon can e-mail them to: edl.cruz@yahoo.com.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Bacuang

BLESSED Leon Imbernott of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

New priests

Bishop Nestor Cuttin of Legazpi ordained six deacons Sept. 24 at the Cathedral of St. Gregory the Great. They were Fr. Orbon Berenjo III, Fr. Warlito Wren, Fr. Al Ray Antwi Concepcion, Fr. Ricardo Dermagarin, Fr. Dennis Pamaloi and Fr. Niño Jose Frias.

In Cebu, the St. Benedict's Ministries in Barrio Guwo, Cantoan, is accepting candidates for oblates. Candidates must be practicing Catholics, men and women, have sufficient knowledge of English and are interested in Benedictine spirituality. Visit, write or text 0939-3260573.

Tridauo of Masses

Our Lady of Bigbog Awo Foundation will hold a Tridauo of Masses at 5 p.m., Nov. 4, and 4 p.m., Nov. 5 and 6, at the St. Paul Seminary Chapel, St. Paul Road, Makati.

The foundation supports seminarians in the Diocese of Boac, holds catechetical interventions, projects public school students for Film Unitreatment, and helps in the repair of churches and chapels in Marinduque.

Marian catechesis

To help foster Marian devotion and for more people to gain better knowledge and understanding of the mystery of Holy Mary, Defending Family Values Foundation published "Marian Catechism: Questions & Answers on the Person, Life and Role of Holy Mary" in the history of salvation.

With researched with almost 300 questions and answers, the book covers mainly Holy Mary's life as told in the sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition, Mary's privileges, and other titles and feasts, an elaboration on the Holy Rosary, Mary's favorite prayer. It also features other Marian devotions and the role of Our Lady in spiritual life. It also states how we can manifest our love for her.

The last chapter deals with St. Joseph, expounding on the role of this just and holy man, chosen by God to protect Jesus and Mary.

For further information, please call Defending Family Values Foundation Inc. at 8920564 or 4194886.

Congregation's 26th

The Congregation del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus will turn 26 on Oct. 30. It solemn High Mass will be celebrated at 6 p.m. at the Rizal Shrine chapel on the Ateneo de Manila campus in Quezon City. New members are Marie Anela and Terry Lapuras.

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For more information, dial 200 toll-free using your Sun Cellular phone, call its 24-hour hotline 3950000 or visit www.suncellular.com.ph.